# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 469 (Part 2)

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**SESSION 2007–2008**

COMPRISING PERIOD
10 December 2007—18 December 2007

# HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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(Formed by the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP, June 2007)

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- Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs—Pat McFadden, Esq, MP
- Minister for Energy—Malcolm Wicks, MP

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Lord Steward—The Duke of Abercorn, KG

Master of the Horse—The Lord Vestey

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    Caroline Flint, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)
    Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England)
    The Rt. Hon. Beverley Hughes, MP (Minister for the North West)
    The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP (Minister for the Olympics and London)
    Gillian Merron, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)
    Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)

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Second Church Estates Commissioner, Representing Church Commissioners—**Sir Stuart Bell, MP**

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Secretary of the Commission—Andrew Kennon

Assistant Secretary—Jenny McCullough

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Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards—Sir Philip Mawer

Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator—Peter Mason

*10 December 2007*

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 10 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### Pre-Release Access to Statistics

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle):** Jointly with the Cabinet Office, I am today publishing "Limiting Pre-Release Access to Statistics: a Consultation Document", copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. This fulfils the commitment I made to Parliament on 2 July that the Government will consult publicly on the rules and principles for pre-release access to official statistics in their final form.

The consultation document sets out how, as a part of the Governance of Britain programme of constitutional renewal, the Government are proposing to tighten the rules and principles under which pre-release access can be granted.

The Government welcome views on the proposals set out in the consultation document by 3 March 2008. The consultation responses will be used to inform the rules and principles for pre-release access that will then be laid before Parliament by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, for approval under the affirmative procedure.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Advantage West Midlands

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I have decided to appoint the new board members listed below.

*Jas Bains*

*Angela Maxwell*

The new appointments will all be for a period of three years.

The appointments will begin on 14 December 2007 and will expire on 13 December 2010.

I have placed further details of the new appointments in the Libraries of both Houses. They were all made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

BIOGRAPHIES

*Angela Maxwell*

Angela Maxwell achieved prominence as one of the region's most dynamic entrepreneurs after she powered Fracino, the UK's only manufacturer of espresso and cappuccino coffee machines, from a £400,000 turnover in 1995 into today's £2 million world-class leading brand. Industry awards include a millennium product award for design excellence in 2000 and recognition as an "Inner City 100" company in 2001.

Earlier this year, Angela was one of just 200 businesswomen honoured by the Queen at Buckingham Palace, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to UK trade and industry. A former European adviser to UK Trade & Investment and, a finalist in Businesswoman of the Year 2005. Angela recently accepted an invitation to become a regional ambassador for the Women's Enterprise Network.

Acuwomen, her latest enterprise, is the UK's first company to bring an all-women group of entrepreneurs under one roof. Angela's hand-picked team encompasses strategic development, sales and marketing, design, PR, and telemarketing. The company's client-base includes Coors Brewery, Talk Talk and the Probation Service.

Angela was previously commercial director at Sheffield Theatres, jointly responsible for a £40 million turnover. Angela has not undertaken any political activity during the last five years.

*Jas Bains*

Jas has spent his career in a variety of roles in local government and housing associations. Appointed chief executive in 2003 he has successfully helped transform Ashram Housing Association into a national award winning organisation.

He brings knowledge and experience of housing, regeneration and leadership of a large third sector organisation. A strong advocate of social cohesion and innovative in championing the needs of under represented groups. His main areas of economic interest are with improving economic prosperity for all and with embracing the opportunities afforded by globalisation. He is a founder member of the Wolverhampton India Trade Partnership.

He has held a number of non-executive board positions in the charities and public sector. Jas is a lifelong Wolves fan and season ticket holder. He has not undertaken any political activity during the last five years.

### East Midlands Development Agency

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I have decided to appoint the new board members listed below.

*Michael Seals*

*Ann Cartwright*

The new appointments will all be for a period of three years.

The appointments will begin on 14 December 2007 and will expire on 13 December 2010.

I have placed further details of the new appointments in the Libraries of both Houses. They were all made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

BIOGRAPHIES

*Michael Seals*

Michael Seals is principally a farmer at The Hall Farm in South Derbyshire. Previously he helped develop and still retains an interest in the Dove Valley Park development also in South Derbyshire.

Michael Seals has been chairman of the National Fallen Stock Company Ltd since 2003, a DEFRA initiative designed to assist farmers in fulfilling obligations under European Regulation. He has held various posts in the National Farmers Union, and is currently their Food Law spokesman. Previously he was a member of the BBC National Rural Affairs Advisory Committee.

*Ann Cartwright*

Ann Cartwright is director of Brooke McNee Leadership Development Consultancy. Previous to this she was the chief executive of Family First Ltd, a registered social landlord in Nottingham.

Ann Cartwright is currently director and company secretary of Nottingham CVS and chair of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire CIPD Branch Committee.

### England Regional Development Agency

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I have decided to appoint the new board members listed below:

*Keith Riley*

*Dolores Byrne*

And reappoint the existing board members listed below:

*Imtiaz Farookhi*

*Professor Bill Wakeham*

All the above appointments will be for a period of three years.

The appointments will begin on 14 December 2007 and will expire on 13 December 2010.

I have placed further details of the appointments in the Libraries of both Houses. They were all made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Biographies

*Dr. Dolores Byrne*

Dolores Byrne has spent over 25 years working in the high technology sector, both in Government and in industry and is currently MD Innovation in QinetiQ, an international defence and technology company.

Dolores graduated in Physics from Queen's University Belfast and also holds a MBA from Southampton University. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering and Technology, a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and has served as Vice-president of the Institute of Physics. Dolores was a member of the national WISE Board (Women in Science and Engineering), a member of the board of the MOD Defence Engineering and Science Group and was a school governor for seven years. She is currently a member of the board of AIRTO (Association of Independent Research and Technology Organisations) and of the Science, Engineering and Technology Advisory Council of SEEDA. Dolores has not undertaken any political activity in the last five years.

*Keith Riley BA(OU), BSc(Eng), CEng, FIMechE, MCIWM, MIoD, FRSA*

Keith Riley is managing director, Group Technical Services of Veolia Environmental Services plc and has a wide experience in recycling and waste management, particularly working with local authorities. Notably, he worked with the Hampshire local authorities as Managing director of Hampshire Waste Services, the private sector partner in Project Integra that put the county and cities of Portsmouth and Southampton at the forefront of good practice in the UK.

Keith holds degrees in engineering from Queen Mary College, University of London, and in social sciences from the Open University. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Member of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management and is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer. Prior to joining Veolia he worked within both large and small companies, including holding senior positions in some blue-chip engineering companies such as Babcock and Rolls-Royce, where he gained extensive experience working overseas.

Keith is Chairman and Trustee of the Resource Recovery Forum, a Trustee of the Veolia Environmental Trust and Trustee of Hampshire Natural Resources Trust. He also serves as an industrial advisor to several universities on resource and wastes management.

Keith is married with one son and two daughters and has lived within the south-east region for over 30 years. His main interests are choral music and historical buildings.

*Imtiaz Farookhi*

Imtiaz Farookhi joined SEEDA's non-executive board on 14 December 2004. Imtiaz is chief executive of NHBC which provides warranty, risk management and regulatory services to the UK house building and wider construction industry. He has been chief executive at NHBC since 1997. He was born in Washington DC, and was educated at the Universities of Kent and London. He has a track record of improving corporate and operational efficiency and effectiveness.

A former board member of the Environment Agency and of the Learning and Skills Council, Imtiaz has substantial experience in both urban regeneration and post-16 education policy. He has also served on the Further Education Funding Council, on several public private partnerships and as a non-executive on a Training and Enterprise Council and on a Business Link. He is currently Chairman of the National Skills Forum for Construction and the Built Environmental, and a Board Member of CITB - ConstructionSkills.

As NHBC's chief executive, Imtiaz plays a key role in highlighting issues facing UK house building such as skills shortages, sustainable development and customer service. He has developed and extended NHBC's range of services and restructured its operations with sustained growth in turnover and balance sheet strength. He has also instigated a review of NHBC's services and a restructuring of its operations.

*Professor Bill Wakeham*

Professor Bill Wakeham was appointed to SEEDA's non-executive board on 14 December 2004. A chemical engineer by training, Bill has been vice-chancellor of the University of Southampton since October 2001. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institution of Chemical Engineers, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and the Institute of Physics. He is a chartered engineer and a chartered physicist. Bill joined the University of Southampton from Imperial College, where he was deputy rector from 1997. In a career spanning 30 years at Imperial College he was appointed pro-rector (research) in 1996, and pro-rector (resources) in 1999. He oversaw the college's merger with a series of medical schools and stimulated its activities in entrepreneurship.

Bill was Chair of SEEDA's South East Science, Engineering and Technology Advisory Committee (SESETAC) until 1995, and plays a leading role on the board of the Southampton Strategic Partnership. Among other professional activities, he is a non-executive director of COGENT, the sector skills council for chemicals, nuclear, oil and gas, petroleum and polymers; a non-executive director of Meridian TV, and an executive member of the Worldwide Universities Network. He is also a member of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Bill has also authored, co-authored or edited seven books and published over 350 papers in the open scientific and engineering literature in the research fields of thermophysical properties of fluids, intermolecular forces and thermodynamics.

He has an honorary degree from the University of Lisbon, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by Exeter University, and is a Fellow of Imperial College. In 1997 he was awarded the Touloukian Medal of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He was Rossini lecturer at the International Conference on Chemical Thermodynamics, Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 2000; and Ared Cezairliyan lecturer at the International Thermal Conductivity conference in 2001.

## Farepak

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Gareth Thomas):** I would like to bring the House up to date on a number of matters connected to the collapse of Farepak:

*Investigation of the collapse*

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's companies investigation branch conducts investigations into companies where there is concern over the way the company's business has been conducted (usually a suspicion of fraud, misconduct or sharp practice). That is why an investigation was instigated into the collapse of Farepak, within days of the appointment of administrators.

Whilst the companies investigation branch completes 90 per cent. of its investigations within six months, the investigation into Farepak has regrettably taken longer because of the huge number of documents that have had to be analysed, the inter-company relationships and the numerous parties to be interviewed. The investigators (CIB staff with long experience of these types of investigations) have compulsory powers—those facing questions must answer them or face court proceedings. These powers are certainly wide enough to embrace all those who have had dealings with Farepak, including its bankers and advisers. It is anticipated that the investigation will be completed early next year.

As a proportionate and acceptable balance against these compulsory powers, the Companies Act requires that these investigations be accorded a limited disclosure regime—information obtained can only be disclosed through legal gateways and the report cannot be directly published.

But if subsequent court proceedings are initiated as a result of the investigation—such as disqualification proceedings against a director, or any prosecution, the story will be revealed during those proceedings. The report can also be disclosed to other regulators so that any appropriate lessons can be learned.

*Liquidation of the company*

It is the liquidator's central duty to secure as much of a return as possible for all the creditors, including the customers. We understand that they are expecting to be able to secure a return of about 5p in the pound.

It is not yet possible to confirm when a payment will be made to customers as every agent and customer claim must be finalised before this can take place. As well as processing claims, the team has had a huge task in verifying claims and double checking that claims have not been duplicated by agents and customers. This work so far has reduced claims by approximately £2 million for the benefit of creditors.

*Action to protect and inform consumers for the future*

The Government have worked closely with the remaining companies to put in place effective measures to protect customers' payments, including oversight by a new body, the Christmas Prepayments Association, and a code of practice. The companies have put in place new independently controlled trust accounts to protect customers' money. The OFT has carried out a preliminary assessment of the code against the criteria in its Consumer Codes Approval Scheme, and the association have amended the code with a view to making a formal application for approval under the scheme.

The Government have also given the OFT £1 million for a consumer education campaign so that consumers are better aware of their options for Christmas savings, and are empowered to make decisions that are right for their own circumstances. The Government's action plan for financial inclusion announces that the OFT will receive a further £2 million funding to continue the "Save Xmas" campaign into the next spending period.

We note the view of the Treasury Select Committee in its Thirteenth Report that, provided the operation of these arrangements proves to be satisfactory, formal regulation of this market is not likely to be appropriate or proportionate. But it remains our intention to reassess the regulatory framework once the outcome of the investigation is available, taking account of earlier advice from the OFT and FSA.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

## Special Tribunal for Lebanon

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The UK continues to be deeply concerned by the political instability resulting from the absence of a President in Lebanon. President Lahoud's term of office expired on 23 November. The ongoing political divisions over who should succeed him remain a source of instability. We have been urging all sides to come together in the spirit of compromise to choose a President who can lead the country forward. We support them in their efforts to do so and hope they will be able to resolve the political crisis as rapidly as possible.

Despite the ongoing uncertainty, progress continues towards the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. On 30 May 2007, the Security Council adopted Security Council Resolution 1757, establishing the Tribunal. The Tribunal will try those accused of killing the former Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri, who was assassinated on 14 February 2005 along with 21 others in a car bomb in central Beirut. This attack was part of a campaign of targeted political attacks against anti-Syrian MPs and political activists in Lebanon. The most recent of these was the assassination of MP Antoine Ghanem on 19 September. Mr. Ghanem was killed along with two bodyguards and four other civilians in a car bomb explosion in east Beirut which also injured more than 70 other innocent civilians.

The UK has been, and remains, firmly committed to the pursuit of justice for Rafiq Hariri's murder and the sequence of assassinations that followed it. The UK worked closely with UN partners to establish the UN Independent International Investigation Commission (UNIIIC) into Mr Hariri's assassination. We were also co-sponsors of UN Security Council Resolution 1757 establishing the Special Tribunal. As part of our continued commitment, and in response to the UN Secretary-General's call for contributions, I am pleased to announce that the UK will be contributing £500,000 ($1 million) to the Tribunal.

The success of the UN-led investigation process and of the Tribunal remain vital for the stability of Lebanon. It is essential that justice is done to send a clear message that political assassinations will not be tolerated. The UK will continue to offer its strong support to the UN and the Lebanese Government as they take this important work forward.

## HEALTH

### Social Care Reform

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis):** "Putting People First: a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care" is published today. This concordat sets out the cross-sector commitment to personalising public services and the need for the state to empower citizens to shape their own lives and the services they receive.

The concordat has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Protective Services

**The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty):** I am today announcing that the Home Office will be increasing its contribution to the work of police forces and authorities dealing with serious and organised crime and other protective services. In 2008-09 and 2009-10, some £11 million will be made available, rising to £13 million in 2010-11. This will help the police service to ensure that they meet the standards expected in the delivery of protective services throughout England and Wales by 2011.

From these amounts grants will be available up to £5 million in 2008-09 and £4 million a year in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to continue the work of the Regional Intelligence Units addressing serious and organised crime. These have been developed, with Home Office financial support, by the Association of Chief Police Officers in collaboration with police forces and authorities throughout England and Wales. We shall be discussing with police forces and authorities the financial contribution that they will need to make in collaboration to ensure the success of these units.

We shall continue financial support to the East Midlands Special Operations Unit recognising its success in tackling serious and organised crime and the special needs of the region. We expect the five forces and authorities in the region to become increasingly self sufficient in the collective provision of this capability and will therefore be discussing with them a tapering of financial support over the period.

These funds also include completion of grants towards the start-up costs of Protective Services Demonstrator Sites and the project to evaluate their development and disseminate best practice. There are now 13 demonstrator sites being funded involving 34 police forces working in collaboration to deliver protective services.

Finally we will be discussing with police forces and authorities the other opportunities there may be to make critical enhancements to their collaborative contribution to protective service improvements using the money the Home Office is making available.

### G6 Counter-Terrorism Symposium

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** I met with counterparts from Poland, France, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States, along with experts from the seven countries for a two-day symposium at Schwielowsee, near Werder, on 30 November and 1 December 2007.

The symposium was intended to provide a chance to reflect, together with the help of legal and academic experts, on developments in international terrorism and to intensify dialogue on effective measures to take against this threat.

In May 2007, the Interior Ministers of the G-6 countries and the US met in Venice at Italy's invitation to discuss counter-terrorism issues. They came to the conclusion that they needed to work together on legal issues around how states counter international terrorism in order to come up with effective responses to the wide variety of threats faced by the international community and its citizens. At that meeting, the participants agreed to intensify their dialogue.

The symposium discussed, inter alia:

whether there were problems and gaps in the legal environment in which states worked to counter terrorism, and how such issues could be addressed;

some specific issues, such as: deportation of terrorist suspects; the creation of new criminal offences; and intelligence sharing;

other related issues such as the European Policing Mission (EUPOL) mission in Afghanistan.

Germany has indicated an intention to convene further work to continue the fruitful dialogue of this symposium.

## JUSTICE

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel (Northern Ireland)

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** On 1 December 2007 responsibility for certain functions in respect of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland transferred from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to the Secretary of State for Justice. The transfer was effected by a machinery of government change.

The Criminal Injury Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland was established under the Criminal Injuries Compensation (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 and hears appeals from the final decision of the Compensation Agency for Northern Ireland on applications for compensation made by, or in respect of, persons who have sustained criminal injury.

Prior to the transfer on 1 December 2007, responsibility for the entire criminal injuries compensation scheme, which included the Compensation Agency for Northern Ireland and the Criminal Injury Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland, lay with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Responsibility for the Compensation Agency for Northern Ireland will remain with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

From 1 December 2007 responsibility for appointing, removing and remunerating the adjudicators who hear the appeals and the reporting, accounting and auditing arrangements in respect of Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland rests with the Secretary of State for Justice. Full details in relation to the statutory functions which have been transferred can be found on the Northern Ireland Court Service website www.courtsni.gov.uk.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympics (Baseline Budget)

**The Minister for the Olympics (Tessa Jowell):** In March this year, I announced the overall public sector funding package for the Olympic and Paralympic games totalling £9.325 billion. Of this total, £6.090 billion including tax and £500 million of initial contingency was identified as public sector funding for the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). The remainder of the package covered security, sports and other non-ODA costs, together with a prudent contingency for ODA and security costs. A fuller breakdown is included at table 1.

As with any major project at this stage, further work was needed to ensure that the budget is fully aligned with scope, programme and risks. This work has now been completed allowing us to publish a more detailed ODA budget in line with the recommendations of the NAO report in July 2007 (The budget for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games). I can now confirm that this has validated the ODA budget and overall funding package I announced in March.

*Detailed Project and Programme Plan*

The ODA has completed a detailed project by project analysis of its scope, costs, programme and risks to assess the total projected cost of their programme of works for the games and for legacy transformation. This has confirmed that the base cost, excluding general programme contingency, is £6.090 billion, the same as the ODA budget within the announcement in March 2007 of a total Government funding package of £9.325 billion.

It is recognised that regenerating a 500 acre park to stage a great Olympic and Paralympic games, as well as providing the underlying infrastructure so that long-term legacy benefits can be achieved, involves managing significant risks. This is the reason why the Government included a prudent contingency in the March announcement.

Therefore, in addition to the project level analysis, programme-wide risks have also been assessed and quantified. The contingency available, within the funding package announced in March, has been confirmed as sufficient to cover the risks at both project and general programme levels.

*Allocated Contingency*

In June 2007, the Ministerial Funders' Group—established to manage the allocation of contingency to the ODA within the overall budget—met and agreed a first allocation of contingency to the ODA, being £360 million out of the £500 million of initial contingency announced in March, to enable the ODA to manage early cost pressures.

Following its second meeting on 26 November 2007, the Funders' Group has now agreed:

> A baseline budget and scope proposed by the ODA. The total budgeted base cost to be met by the public sector funding package remains at £6.090 billion including tax and excluding general programme contingency as I announced in March.
>
> This includes the allocation to the ODA of the remaining £140 million from the initial £500 million contingency that I announced in March, covering as planned the cost pressures on early projects across the ODA programme.

*Total Contingency Available*

As a result of this further work and recent decisions, there still remains £2.009 billion of contingency. This contingency includes provision against known programme-wide risks, and against risks that are outside the ODA's control. The programme-wide risks, and other risks outside the ODA's control, have been assessed and quantified and the contingency available has been confirmed as sufficient to cover such risks.

Access to any of the £2.009 billion contingency will only be on the basis of a case by case assessment of actual risks arising and any mitigation that can be taken. The ODA is also incentivised to limit requests for release of the contingency to the minimum consistent with securing good value in such a large and complex programme, and will manage its contracting strategy accordingly.

Table 2 summarises the funding position, including a detailed breakdown of the ODA budget as a result of these decisions, and table 3 summarises the contingency released.

In addition, as previously identified, £238 million of the £2.247 billion contingency has been set aside to cover the risks in relation to security beyond the budget of £600 million I announced in March. The funding allocated to security will continue to be subject to oversight and scrutiny in the coming months and years by the relevant Cabinet Committee, the Home Secretary and the Metropolitan Police.

*Next Steps*

In the new year, the ODA will issue a summary of the baseline scope, aligned budget, programme and risks. The budget and scope now agreed will provide a robust baseline for future reporting.

I will provide a detailed account of progress across the Olympic programme when the first Olympic annual report is produced in the new year. I will make further reports to Parliament on a six monthly basis, including information on further allocation of contingency.

*Note*

The following tables do not include a breakdown of individual project costs, budgets or contingency requirements where this is necessary to protect ongoing commercial confidentiality.

*Table 1: Funding announcement March 2007.*

The total public sector Olympic funding envelope is £9.325 billion and the maximum public sector funding package for the ODA is £8.099 million as follows:

| | | £m | £m | £m |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Total Funding Package* | | | | 9.325 |
| Less Non ODA costs | | | | |
| | Elite and Community sports | 290 | | |
| | Paralympic Games | 66 | | |
| | Look of London | 32 | | |
| | | | 388 | |
| | Security | 600 | | |
| | Security contingency | 238 | | |
| | | | 838 | |
| *Total Non ODA* | | | | (1.226) |
| *Total Available for ODA* | | | | 8,099 |
| ODA Base costs inc VAT | | | 5,590 | |
| Contingency released | | | 500 | |
| *Total ODA before unallocated contingency* | | | | 6,090 |
| *Contingency remaining* | | | | 2,009 |
| *Maximum funding available for ODA* | | | | 8,099 |

| *Project* | *Detailed Project* | *Base Cost* £m | *VAT* £m | *Gross cost* £m |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Site Preparation and Infrastructure* | Powerlines | 240 | 42 | 282 |
| | Utilities | 217 | 38 | 255 |
| | Enabling works | 310 | 54 | 364 |
| | Structures, Bridges, Highways | 706 | 124 | 830 |
| | Contribution to Prescott Lock upgrade | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| | Other infrastructure (Greenway, Landscaping | 175 | 31 | 206 |
| | *Total Site Preparation and Infrastructure* | 1,653 | 289 | 1,942 |
| *Venues* | Stadium | 422 | 74 | 496 |
| | Other Olympic Park Venues | 488 | 86 | 574 |
| | Non Olympic Park Venues | 86 | 15 | 101 |
| | *Total Venues* | 996 | 175 | 1,171 |
| *Transport* | Stratford Regional station | 114 | 5 | 119 |
| | Contribution to DLR upgrade | 86 | 0 | 86 |
| | Thorntons Field relocation | 40 | 7 | 47 |
| | Contribution to North London Line upgrade | 110 | 0 | 110 |
| | Other transport capital projects | 161 | 17 | 178 |

| *Project* | *Detailed Project* | *Base Cost* *£m* | *VAT* *£m* | *Gross cost* *£m* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Other transport operating expenditure | 328 | 29 | 357 |
| | *Total Transport Projects* | 839 | 58 | 897 |
| *Other Parkwide Projects* | Logistics for site construction | 287 | 50 | 337 |
| | Section 106 and master planning | 108 | 19 | 127 |
| | Insurance | 42 | 8 | 50 |
| | Security for park construction | 301 | 53 | 354 |
| | *Total Other Parkwide Projects* | 738 | 130 | 868 |
| *IBC/MPC, Olympic Village, Programme Delivery and Taxation* | *IBC/MPC, Olympic Village* | 491 | 1 | 492 |
| | *Programme Delivery* | 580 | 67 | 647 |
| | *Corporation Tax and Net Interest* | 0 | 73 | 73 |
| *TOTAL* | | 5,297 | 793 | 6,090 |
| *REMAINING CONTINGENCY* | | | | 2,009 |
| *MAXIMUM FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ODA* | | | | 8,099 |

The amounts shown above are net of contributions receivable totalling £58.9m, which includes amounts related to enabling works, utilities and village.

Projects which are not disaggregated such as Other Olympic Park Venues are still subject to contract and accordingly are commercially sensitive at this stage.

Programme delivery includes a provision for performance related payments to CLM, the ODA Delivery Partner.

Contingency as announced on 15 March 2007 totalled £2,247m. This is included as two separate amounts, £2,009m as included above and £238m identified as Security Contingency within the Non-ODA Budget. The Security Contingency of £238m was announced to Parliament on 17 October 2007 (Hansard 17 October 2007 Column 1133W).

While a cost to the games, all tax paid by the ODA will be a future receipt to the Exchequer and accordingly no net additional cost to the public sector.

*Table 3: The Detailed Breakdown of Contingency Released.*

| | *Released Contingency Included in Cost* |
|---|---|
| Site preparation and Infrastructure | 177 |
| Venues | 100 |
| Transport | 21 |
| Other Parkwide projects | 208 |
| IBC/MPC, Olympic Village, Programme Delivery and Taxation | (6) |
| | 500 |

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Self-Invested Personal Pensions

**The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien):** Consultation begins today on draft regulations which will allow protected rights to be held in Self-Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs). A copy of the consultation document and draft regulations have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

The consultation is the result of the very useful dialogue we have had with the pensions community about the existing restrictions preventing SIPPs from holding protected rights. In light of recent changes bringing SIPPs under the regulatory control of the FSA, the Government consider that these restrictions are no longer necessary.

The consultation runs until 29 February 2008.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 11 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### Economic and Financial Affairs Council

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher):** On 23 November 2007, I represented the UK at the Budget Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN).

Finance Ministers agreed to adopt Preliminary Draft Amending Budget No. 7 to the 2007 EC Budget, amending the 2007 Budget to reflect latest implementation capacity and thus reducing the level of funding required from member states in 2007.

Finance Ministers agreed to adopt Amending Letter No. 2 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2008, which reflected the latest information on agricultural market prices and other developments.

During a conciliation meeting between Council and the European Parliament agreement was reached on the 2008 EC Budget and on the multi-annual financing for the Galileo project and the European Institute of Technology. The agreement establishes total payment levels of €120.3 billion (0.96 per cent. of EU GNI). The European Parliament is scheduled to vote on its own second reading on 13 December, after which the 2008 EC Budget will be formally adopted.

Four joint statements relating to the Budget were also agreed at Budget ECOFIN. These concerned: the financing of Galileo and the European Institute of Technology; Joint Undertakings; and the procedure to implement the budget agreement reached by the Council and European Parliament. The Government are supportive of these statements, which affirm the principle of fair and open competition and call for sound financial management and budget discipline in the areas they concern.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Yorkshire Forward

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I have decided to appoint the new board members listed below.

*Mark Lovell*

*Cllr Mark Kirk*

All the new appointments will be for a period of three years.

The appointments will begin on 14 December 2007 and will expire on 13 December 2010.

I have placed further details of the appointments in the Libraries of both Houses. They were all made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

BIOGRAPHIES

*Councillor Mark Kirk*: is the leader of North Lincolnshire Council. At a regional level Mark is the chair of the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly's Regional Transport Board. In relation to the number sub-region he is a director of Urban Renaissance, director of Crosby Pathfinder, director of Humberside Airport and director of Humber Economic Partnership. At a local level he chairs the Local Ethnic Community Meetings; is a founder member of the Crosby Community Association; and was formerly vice chair of Lincolnshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust. No other ministerial appointments are held.

*Mark Lovell*: is the executive chairman of A4e Ltd and is a dynamic and successful entrepreneur/ business leader focused on high growth business in global public service markets. His company has grown from start-up to a £100 million turnover business over the last 15 years and has received a number of accolades.

### Defence Exports

**The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton):** The Prime Minister's statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 83WS, announced a machinery of Government change moving responsibility for defence trade promotion from the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). Today I am announcing the arrangements under which this transfer will take place.

This statement is made in close consultation with my colleagues the Secretary of State for Defence, and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

We fully recognise how important continued export success is to the health of this strategic sector of the economy. Defence equipment manufacture is highly important to the United Kingdom. The combination of expertise within both DESO and UKTI offers a major opportunity to enhance the way HM Government offer support to this successful industry. The ability to offer a complete package for prospective customer Governments, who often seek specialist assistance, will help the industry develop a compelling market proposition that positions the UK uniquely in the world.

The new organisation will build on the sector's recent work which has produced a code setting out common standards of good business practice. We will work together to promote strong standards of business conduct and corporate governance in the sector.

The new organisation will be the UKTI Defence and Security Group. This is a working name. The group will be a UKTI business unit with expertise in defence services and products, operating under the UKTI brand and to UKTI strategic objectives. Ministerial responsibility will rest with the Minister of State for Trade and Investment. The group will be accountable to the UKTI board and its head will report to UKTI's chief executive. Its head will be selected through open competition.

UKTI Defence and Security Group will have continued links to the MOD, in support of defence objectives. This will involve the active engagement of Defence Ministers, and the loan from the MOD to UKTI (via the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)) of armed forces and relevant civilian personnel to the group. Certain other civilian personnel will transfer from the MOD to UKTI (via BERR), and staff employed locally at overseas missions will transfer from MOD employment to UKTI (via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

The current export licensing function within the Defence Export Services Organisation will be retained within the MOD and so be separate from export support activities. And within BERR the separation between BERR export licence functions and trade promotion in UKTI will continue.

In line with the Prime Minister's statement, no changes are envisaged to existing and planned agreements between the MOD and other Governments.

An implementation plan is in place. As a machinery of government change, the guiding principle is that business planning assumptions, and staffing and resources, will be taken on at their current levels from DESO by UKTI. This transfer to UKTI will take place on 1 April 2008.

## EU Energy Council

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** I represented the UK at the Energy Council in Brussels on 3 December.

The Council was dominated by exchanges on progress on the internal market. There was a positive outcome from a UK perspective, with growing support for ownership unbundling. The rest of the meeting was taken up by a policy debate on the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan and information from the presidency and Commission on international relations.

On the SET plan, Ministers debated the recently adopted Commission communication and an associated presidency 'vision statement'. The presidency said it was important the EU took a lead internationally to meet climate goals—the cost of inaction was greater than action. Investment in the development of energy technologies would be critical but there was no single solution—a wide range of technologies was needed. The Commission outlined the content of their communication. To meet our long-term climate objectives the EU had to be ambitious both on its own and in promoting greater international cooperation.

While welcoming the communication, member states demonstrated a wide range of views on the appropriate prescription, particularly when it came to identifying the most important technologies; energy efficiency was the most mentioned sector. There was general agreement on the need for more effective investment in R&D and the importance of the private sector. For the UK, I emphasised the need to translate the plan into early action; referring to the recent UK tender for demonstration of carbon capture and storage I underlined the importance of addressing policy and regulatory barriers to developing and demonstrating new energy technologies. The Commission emphasised the need to prioritise action.

Presenting the Third Internal Market Package, the Commission noted that while liberalisation had brought benefits, competitive markets were not yet complete. To meet the spring European Council mandate, real change was necessary to ensure non-discriminatory access, open and transparent markets, incentives to invest, and to improve the powers and independence of regulators. On the key issue of unbundling, the Commission noted that unbundled markets had experienced lower price rises (6 per cent. as against 29 per cent.) and higher investment. Though the Commission was open to considering alternatives, these had to involve structural separation that ensured the independence of the Transmission System Operator. The Commission called for swift progress in Council.

All member states welcomed the presidency progress report as fair and balanced. The presidency noted the broad consensus on regulators' powers, objectives and independence as well as the need for greater co-operation, though not yet on the proposed agency model itself, and called on those member states wanting a third option on unbundling to present it soon.

For the UK, I supported the Commission's analysis that full ownership unbundling was the best way to deliver the necessary network investment and benefits of a competitive market to EU consumers and business as UK experience demonstrated. I emphasised the importance of rapid progress, noting that any third option would have to meet the spring European Council mandate on effective separation of networks from supply/generation activities to ensure independent decisions on investment. I also recognised the special circumstances faced by small or isolated markets.

A large majority of member states supported the UK position in whole or in part. Several others supported the agency while others emphasised the importance of the third country clause.

Two member states in particular, supported by four others, rejected functional separation of networks and supply as a solution to the problem, seeing networks as a natural monopoly. They believed it caused problems for safety, investment, quality and prices, as well as weakening EU operators' positions against third country companies. They would suggest an ambitious alternative solution next year. The Commission concluded by emphasising that the purpose was to promote the interests of EU consumers, not the energy industry.

On International Relations, the presidency reported on a variety of initiatives, focusing on Brazil and Africa in particular. Energy was now an important component of most EU external relations, for example with China, India and the EuroMed. The Commission agreed and noted the good progress made across the board. On Russia, they would investigate the impact of the third package on Russian companies and they would soon propose modalities for the accession of Moldova, Ukraine, Norway and Turkey to the Energy Community Treaty. The proposed Energy Efficiency Platform, in lieu of an international agreement, was also important; the Commission was looking at ways of supporting its development.

Two member states raised their interest in pipeline developments. The Commission's co-ordinator for the Nabucco pipeline reported on this project.

### 2007 Simplification Plans

**The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden):** The Government are today publishing Simplification Plans for 19 Departments and Government agencies. The Health and Safety Executive published its plan on 3 December, taking the total number of plans published to 20.

The plans set out more than 700 initiatives which, when delivered, will result in reduced administrative burdens and policy costs for the UK economy as a whole.

They show how the Government are delivering the commitment they made 12 months ago to reduce administrative burdens on business and the third sector by 25 per cent. net by 2010, saving the economy £3.5 billion a year. They set out 288 simplification measures that Departments have delivered to date, saving business and the third sector more than £800 million net per year. And they show that work has begun on reducing the bureaucracy faced by frontline public sector workers.

These plans continue the Government's commitment to transparent reporting of its simplification programme. Departments will continue to update plans annually in order to ensure on-going year-on-year reductions in the burdens they impose.

A report "Delivering simplification plans: A summary" has been deposited in both Houses which summarises this cross-Government effort.

## DEFENCE

### Defence Storage and Distribution Centre

**The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth):** My noble Friend the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support has now approved, effective from 11 December 2007, the early closure of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) Regional Distribution Centres (RDCs) at Longmoor, Shorncliffe, Llangennech, Bulford, Catterick, Chilwell, Colchester and Stirling.

Under the Future Defence Supply Chain Initiative (FDSCi), the MOD assessed a range of options for managing and operating the defence supply chain, to reduce the cost of ownership, while maintaining or improving service levels, and enhancing operational capability. DSDA's new plan makes greater use of Donnington and Bicester, cutting out the need for a number of RDCs. Much material will be delivered direct rather than through a regional hub and is more sophisticated in selecting how material flows are routed; DSDA has also opened a warehouse for fast-moving items at Donnington and more than 50 per cent. of all DSDA deliveries will be from this new facility. This will provide the opportunity for material to be delivered direct rather than through an RDC, and for flexible decisions to be taken as to whether an item is posted, handled by a parcel or pallet carrier, delivered direct, or delivered as part of a multiple delivery route.

I recognise that this will not be a welcome prospect for those staff who stand to be affected. It is not possible to give an absolute assurance that compulsory redundancies can be avoided, although every effort will be made to do so. The MOD Outplacement Service (MODOPS) will be available to support staff affected by the closure, offering support with relocation and financial advice. Training will be available to assist staff with the transition to life in the private sector and services of the MOD Welfare organisation will also be available to help staff with personal circumstances.

Consultation with the trade unions has been completed, during which time a counter-proposal was received. However this was not operationally or financially viable. On this basis, I have decided to fully endorse the closures of the RDCs.

### War Pensions Uprating 2008

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg):** The new rates of war pensions and allowances proposed from April 2008 are set out in the tables below. The annual uprating of war pensions and allowances for 2008 will take place from the week beginning 7 April.

*War Pensions Rates*

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *RATES 2007* | *RATES 2008* |
|---|---|---|
| WAR PENSIONS | | |
| Disablement Pension (100% rates) | | |
| officer (£ per annum) | 7290.00 | 7571.00 |
| other ranks | 139.70 | 145.10 |
| Age allowances | | |
| 40%-50% | 9.40 | 9.75 |
| over 50% but not over 70% | 14.35 | 14.90 |
| over 70% but not over 90% | 20.45 | 21.25 |
| over 90% | 28.70 | 29.80 |
| Disablement gratuity | | |
| specified minor injury (min.) | 889.00 | 924.00 |
| specified minor injury (max.) | 6643.00 | 6902.00 |
| unspecified minor injury (min.) | 367.00 | 381.00 |
| unspecified minor injury (max.) | 8637.00 | 8974.00 |
| Unemployability allowance | | |
| Personal | 86.35 | 89.70 |
| adult dependency increase | 48.65 | 50.55 |
| increase for first child | 11.30 | 11.75 |
| increase for subsequent children | 13.30 | 13.80 |
| Invalidity allowance | | |
| Higher rate | 17.10 | 17.75 |
| middle rate | 11.00 | 11.40 |
| lower rate | 5.50 | 5.70 |
| Constant attendance allowance | | |
| exceptional rate | 105.40 | 109.60 |

*War Pensions Rates*

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | *RATES 2007* | *RATES 2008* |
|---|---|---|
| intermediate rate | 79.05 | 82.20' |
| full day rate | 52.70 | 54.80 |
| Part-day rate | 26.35 | 27.40 |
| Comforts allowance | | |
| higher rate | 22.60 | 23.50 |
| lower rate | 11.30 | 11.75 |
| Mobility supplement | 50.30 | 52.25 |
| Allowance for lowered standard of occupation (maximum) | 52.68 | 54.72 |
| Therapeutic earnings limit | 4472.00 | 4602.00 |
| Exceptionally severe disablement allowance | 52.70 | 54.80 |
| Severe disablement occupational allowance | 26.35 | 27.40 |
| Clothing allowance (£ per annum) | 180.00 | 187.00 |
| Education allowance (£ per annum) (max) | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| Widow(er)s - private | 105.90 | 110.05 |
| Widow(er)s' (other ranks) | 105.90 | 110.05 |
| Widow(er) - Officer (£ p.a. max) | 6525.00 | 6779.00 |
| Childless widow(er)s' u-40 (other ranks) | 25.37 | 26.36 |
| Childless widow(er)s' u-40 (Officer max.£s pa) | 6525.00 | 6779.00 |
| Supplementary Pension | 70.88 | 73.64 |
| Age allowance | | |
| (a) age 65 to 69 | 12.10 | 12.55 |
| (b) age 70 to 79 | 23.20 | 24.10 |
| (c) age 80 and over | 34.40 | 35.75 |
| Children's allowance | | |
| Increase for first child | 16.65 | 17.30 |
| Increase for subsequent children | 18.60 | 19.35 |
| Orphan's pension | | |
| Increase for first child | 18.95 | 19.70 |
| Increase for subsequent children | 20.80 | 21.60 |
| Unmarried dependant living as spouse (max) | 103.55 | 107.70 |
| Rent allowance (maximum) | 39.95 | 41.50 |
| Adult orphan's pension (maximum) | 81.35 | 84.50 |

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Exotic Animal Diseases (DEFRA Contingency Plan)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw):** The National Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases was laid before Parliament on Monday 10 December.

This Plan sets out the operational arrangements Defra will put in place to deal with any occurrence of foot and mouth disease, avian influenza or Newcastle disease. The plan is also applicable to other exotic animal diseases. It is composed of two elements: Defra's Framework Response Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases, outlining systems, structures, roles and responsibilities during an outbreak of disease, and Defra's Overview of Emergency Preparedness which provides details of our preparedness and operational response.

It replaces Defra's Exotic Animal Disease Generic Contingency Plan which was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2006.

Defra's Contingency Plan is very much a "living document". It will be subject to ongoing revision taking on the latest developments in science, research, and epidemiological modelling together with lessons identified from outbreaks.

To meet the provisions of the Animal Health Act, the Plan will also be subject to formal annual review.

### Animal Health and Welfare

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw):** I am today announcing publication of a document inviting views on the next steps on sharing responsibility and costs for animal health and welfare.

Better animal health and welfare is important for our livestock, their owners, public health, society, and the rural economy. As recent events have shown animal disease outbreaks can be costly to farmers and the livestock industry, to the wider economy and to the taxpayer. The costs are not just financial but also the disruption and uncertainty caused while we have worked together to bring outbreaks under control.

The Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain (2004) set out our vision for the future. Partnership working and a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities are key elements in achieving that vision.

The Responsibility and Cost Sharing Programme is central to delivering this. The aim is to make joint working between industry and government a reality: with joint decisions on how to prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases using our joint resources and skills. The close partnerships involved in tackling the recent foot and mouth and bluetongue disease outbreaks, are excellent demonstrations of how industry is able and ready to take on greater responsibility and play a more active role in managing disease risks.

The Government wish to develop and strengthen this partnership approach. This consultation is an important part of the process for developing the right structures and mechanisms for doing so and seeks views on a range of options. First, it discusses ways to share responsibility between Government and industry. The questions here are what decisions livestock keepers and industry as a whole are best placed to deal with; and how best to organise joint decision making with Government where this is needed.

Secondly, the document looks at the principles for deciding how costs can be shared equitably. The Anderson inquiry into the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak highlighted the need for sharing disease control costs with those involved: those who benefit should contribute. There is undoubtedly a need to redress the current imbalance. But jointly owned and funded animal health disease controls can also deliver wider economic benefits, public health and other public goals. Therefore, it is right that the public, as taxpayers, should also pay an appropriate share of the costs.

Thirdly, it considers what funding mechanisms would encourage and incentivise public and private sector interests to work together to manage risks better and deliver outcomes more efficiently. We wish to encourage behaviour that leads to better biosecurity, and compliance with cost effective risk reduction measures, making more use of non-legislative alternatives to regulation, and with a greater focus on incentives rather than penalties and enforcement.

Lastly, some specific proposals are put forward for the withdrawal or reduction of public subsidies for certain measures that concern BSE in cattle and scrapie in sheep. These would not affect the controls that protect public health, which will remain firmly in place.

The content of this consultation has been shared with the UK Consultative Forum on Responsibility and Cost Sharing and the England Implementation Group for Animal Health and Welfare. In the light of this consultation and further work by the forum the Government will be developing detailed proposals for further consultation next year.

These changes should lead to better risk management, improved decisions, more efficient delivery; and a fairer, transparent distribution of costs between industry and government, and between businesses within the industry.

This consultation concerns England. I am also discussing these issues closely with ministerial colleagues in other parts of the UK, with the aim of developing common policies that recognise the challenges posed by animals and their diseases and movements across administrative borders from livestock enterprises spread across the UK, especially as Great Britain is recognised as a single epidemiological unit for animal disease.

## Climate Change (UN Framework Convention)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** My hon. Friend the Minister for the Environment and I will attend the 13th meeting of the Parties (COP13) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bali, Indonesia this week. Our aim for the meeting is the launch of negotiations leading—by the end of 2009—to a comprehensive global agreement to tackle climate change. This is an ambitious objective, and success is not guaranteed.

The recent fourth assessment report from the panel on climate change (IPCC) has made clear the role of humans in climate change and the impact on food production, sea level rise, human health, biodiversity and on our economies if we do not take urgent and sustained action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is very important that we achieve an international agreement which can build on existing commitments and is agreed in time to follow the first commitment phase of the Kyoto protocol, which ends in 2012.

I welcome the recent call by the Corporate Leaders' Group, representing over 90 companies, for a launch of negotiations and for an enhanced and extended carbon market. At Bali we need to agree that all parties will take part in a comprehensive, twin-tracked negotiation to be completed at the Copenhagen climate change conference at the end of 2009. This will require a detailed work programme and interim milestones to review progress.

The two tracks relate to the Framework Convention and the Kyoto protocol. Under the convention, parties have already been discussing in a non-negotiating forum how to improve its implementation. The focus has been on technology, market instruments, adaptation and sustainable development and we need to build on these discussions in formal negotiations.

The second track relates to the ongoing negotiations under the Kyoto protocol, where developed countries which have ratified have been considering new targets for the second commitment phase which is due to start in 2013. This needs to continue in tandem with the planned 2008 review of the protocol.

We believe that the negotiations we will seek to launch in Bali will need to be guided by four main principles: recognition of the scale of the challenge, effectiveness, fairness and a comprehensive scope.

The first principle on recognising the scale of the challenge is the need for the negotiations to be guided by the aim of limiting the global average temperature increase to not more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and agreeing a goal of reducing global emissions to at least 50 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2050.

The second principle is that the agreement must be effective. This means it must involve all countries with significant emissions; and the commitments made must be measurable. An effective agreement also requires development of a truly global carbon market. We know that putting a price on carbon is essential to provide the incentive for the private sector to invest in energy efficiency and clean energy sources. We need to expand and evolve market mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism to move us toward a global carbon market. At Bali we will be pressing for improvements to implementation of the current mechanisms.

The third principle is fairness. The commitments made by different countries must be based on the UN principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities". Developed countries must continue to take the lead by adopting deeper targets. The larger developing countries will also need to adopt new and flexible types of commitments which do not have the effect of putting a brake on their development. These commitments will need to vary between countries depending on their different stages of economic development and they will change over time as countries grow. We do not foresee any developing country taking on absolute emissions reductions in the next commitment period but action by developing countries should nevertheless be measurable and verifiable. Negotiations on these commitments should form the basis of the discussions under the convention talks.

Fairness also demands that the rich countries support developing countries in making this transition. We need to facilitate the transfer of technology and in Bali we will be aiming to launch a new body to progress a long-term and enhanced technology transfer framework feeding into a post-2012 agreement. Through the Clean Development Mechanism, the carbon market already provides significant flows of finance to developing countries; they could be much larger in the future. And we are also prepared to do more to offer support. The Clean Energy Investment Framework of the World Bank and regional development banks is intended to catalyse private sector investment in low carbon energy, energy efficiency and adaptation to climate change.

The Government have already pledged £800 million through our Environmental Transformation Fund over the next three years for these aims, and we now want other donor countries to join us in making this a major fund that can assist developing countries in tackling the challenges of climate change.

Fourth, a post-2012 agreement must be comprehensive. As well as emissions from energy it must address those from land use, especially from deforestation. Major progress in reducing deforestation rates has already been made, in Brazil, Indonesia and elsewhere. If we are to help reduce emissions from deforestation, the international community must make it economically worthwhile for local people to benefit from sustainable forest management rather than through logging and forest clearance. In Bali we are aiming to agree a framework for voluntary participation by developing countries in a scheme to provide positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation, including a set of indicative national baselines with long-term responsibility for stocks.

We also want to see positive support for pilot schemes, to help build links to activities by other organisations and stakeholders, including the World Bank proposal for a Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. We need to link the deforestation negotiations into the broader negotiations on a post-2012 agreement. For any agreement to be comprehensive, it should also cover the growing emissions from aviation and shipping.

And last, but very importantly, we need to accept that climate change is already happening and some future impacts are inevitable. All countries need to put in place measures now that will increase resilience to the effects of climate change. It is the poorest countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. At Bali we will be seeking to agree governance arrangements for a planned Adaptation Fund so that it can start work, as well as to agree to develop a new Framework for Action on Adaptation which provides a structure for stakeholder engagement and funding.

While the UNFCCC is the primary body for international consensus on a new agreement, we need to recognise the valuable work taking place in informal discussions and negotiations such as the G8, Gleneagles Dialogue and US Major Economies Meeting. The results from these informal processes should be fed into the convention negotiations.

Success in achieving these aims at Bali is indeed an ambitious goal. But it is one that all those attending from the UK will do their best to achieve.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### EU Africa Summit (Lisbon 8 and 9 December 2007)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** Leaders from the European Union and Africa met in Lisbon on 8 and 9 December at the second EU Africa summit to agree new co-operation and a framework for a closer partnership between the two continents. The agenda was wide covering peace and security, governance and human rights, trade, infrastructure and development, energy and climate change and migration. The main themes to emerge discussions focused on governance and trade.

The UK had made its position clear that the Prime Minister would not participate if President Mugabe attended. Baroness Amos ably represented the UK and promoted key aims.

The UK commitment to the relationship between African and the European Union is clear. We supported the summit and have been working hard with partners in the course of this year to prepare for successful discussions and agreements. We welcome the fact that leaders were able to discuss and reach agreement on urgent global challenges including the need to accelerate progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, tackling conflict and climate change, and promoting good governance.

European leaders at the summit rightly highlighted the links between governance and development and focused particularly on the human rights situations in Zimbabwe and Darfur, and the serious challenge to Africa's development that they represent. Baroness Amos raised Zimbabwe and the appalling human rights situation caused by President Mugabe during her intervention. African leaders too spoke up on the need to tackle poor governance and safeguard human rights and the links to growth promotion and development.

The trading relationship between the European Union and African countries and regions formed an important part of discussions, with some African countries expressing concerns about the new Economic Partnership Agreements. Many African countries have now signed or initialled interim agreements with the Commission. The Commission underscored the importance of concluding such agreements, particularly for non-least developed countries, in order to safeguard trade flows. It agreed to schedule further discussions with the leaders from the five African regions in the new year to take stock of the situation and discuss the way forward. The UK continues to encourage those countries which have yet to sign an interim agreement to do so to avoid damaging trade disruption. We also consider it vital that no country should be worse off and that when full economic partnership agreements are negotiated, they promote development objectives.

The summit aimed to forge a stronger partnership between Africa and Europe. Leaders agreed a joint strategy, and a series of action plans that set out specific commitments over the next three years. These new agreements build on many of the commitments made: at Gleneagles and at the December 2005 European Council held under the UK presidency. "EU Africa Partnerships" setting out co-operation and targets have been agreed under eight headings: the millennium development goals; good governance and human rights; peace and security; climate change; energy; trade and integration; migration; and science.

The UK will continue to work closely with EU and African partners to ensure that commitments made in Lisbon are honoured and concrete progress is made.

## Kosovo

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** On 7 December, representatives of the Contact Group submitted to the UN Secretary-General the report by the EU-Russia-US troika on their work aimed at achieving a negotiated settlement for Kosovo's future status.

The troika correctly set themselves the objective of "leaving no stone unturned" in the search for an outcome mutually acceptable to both Belgrade and Pristina. During the four months of their mandate, the troika undertook an intense schedule of meetings with the parties. Over ten rounds of negotiations—including six sets of direct talks, one of them in extended conference format—the parties considered options covering the spectrum from independence, autonomy, confederation, partition and a status-neutral approach. One or other of the parties rejected all these options.

The troika have therefore reported that the parties have been unable to reach an agreement on Kosovo's status.

I pay tribute to the troika's work. They have worked tirelessly and imaginatively. Although they did not secure an agreement between the parties, their work generated sustained and intensive high-level dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. The troika have also been able to extract important commitments from the parties, including pledges to refrain from actions that might jeopardise the security situation in Kosovo or elsewhere and not to use violence, threats or intimidation. These are important commitments to which we shall expect both sides to adhere strictly in the period ahead.

The troika's efforts followed those of UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari who laboured heroically for 14 months to reach agreement between the parties before concluding that this was out of reach. He therefore drew up his own proposal for how to move forward based around the concept of supervised independence. That recommendation was supported by the EU, US and UN Secretary-General. It was rejected by Serbia and Russia.

It is hard to argue now that there is any value in further negotiations or that serious options have yet to be fully explored. The failure to reach agreement is not because of lack of time, energy or imagination on the part of the international community. It is because the positions of the parties are irreconcilable. Kosovo insists on independence. Serbia insists on a settlement that locks the door on any prospect of independence. The UK shares the firm view of the EU representative on the troika, Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, that the parties would not be capable of reaching agreement on this issue if negotiations were to be continued, whether in the troika format, or in some other form.

The Kosovo status process has now reached a decisive moment, presenting the international community with difficult but important decisions.

One point on which almost all in the international community are agreed is that the status quo is unsustainable. This was stated in clear terms by the UN Secretary-General when he addressed the Contact Group Ministerial meeting in September in New York. The Contact Group, including Russia, subsequently expressed their agreement in a joint Ministerial statement.

The international community cannot therefore allow the status process to grind to a halt or to be shuffled off into a siding by convening further fruitless negotiations. We learned to our cost in the 1990s the heavy human and political price attached to an indecisive international response to looming problems in the Western Balkans. The stability and security of part of Europe is at stake. It is essential that we respond in a decisive and far-sighted manner.

The UK's preference would be for a settlement to be supported by the passage of a resolution of the UN Security Council. We believe there should be further rapid consultations in New York to this end before the end of 2007. However in the absence of agreement between the parties, we need to be realistic about the slim prospects of securing the necessary level of consensus in the Security Council.

Against this background it is important that the EU demonstrates its readiness to meet its responsibilities and objectives in respect of stability and security in Europe. Securing a viable and sustainable future for Kosovo is a major responsibility for the EU. The effectiveness and cohesiveness of the EU's common foreign and security policy will be judged against our ability to deliver on this responsibility. The EU must demonstrate firm resolve to bring the status process through to completion and play a leading role subsequently in implementing a settlement. I welcome the fact that the EU is already intensively engaged in the necessary preparations to meet these responsibilities.

In moving towards a Kosovo settlement, it will be necessary for the EU and others to take a strategic approach answering to a series of key challenges. There will be a need to ensure Kosovo's security. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is already deployed in strength in Kosovo to maintain a safe and secure environment. The EU has indicated a readiness to provide a European Security and Defence Policy policing/rule of law mission. The EU should deliver on this commitment.

There will be a need to ensure good governance in Kosovo. The proposal of the UN Special Envoy provides a good basis for this. The provisions it set out for the internal governance of Kosovo, and the allocation of responsibilities it contains, must be the foundation for how we deliver security and help Kosovo improve its ability to meet European standards. The EU should be ready to play a major part in settlement implementation including through the appointment of an EU Special Representative and through contributing to an International Civilian Office in Kosovo.

There will be a need to achieve certainty and permanence in respect of Kosovo's future status. Again, the UK believes that the proposal of the UN Special Envoy for supervised independence provides a good basis.

There will be a need to look beyond the immediate challenge of resolving Kosovo's future status. Following a settlement, Kosovo will face formidable economic and state-building challenges. The international community—with the EU to the fore—will need to be ready to meet this challenge, including through the swift convening of a donors' conference.

Finally, there will be a need to address the regional dimension. The UK recognises that moving through this phase will be difficult for Serbia, as well as for other countries in the region. The EU must be clear and far-sighted in its commitment to helping them meet European standards and so move farther towards eventual accession. There is a compelling strategic case for enlargement to the Western Balkans so that this troubled region can share in the security, stability and prosperity that the EU offers. The EU needs to take forward this agenda vigorously in the months ahead.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Research and Science Budget

**The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham):** Today I am publishing "The Research and Science Budget Allocations 2008-09 to 2010-11". The publication outlines the allocations of the Research And Science Budget for this comprehensive spending review period, and provides further details on what this money will deliver. I have placed copies in the Library of the House.

The overall settlement was announced by the Chancellor in the comprehensive spending review. As a result the Department will spend almost £6 billion in total on the research base by 2010-11. This is made up of the Research and Science Budget and nearly £2 billion of funding to reach English universities through the Higher Education Funding Council's (HEFCE) quality-related funding stream (the second leg of the dual support system).

The Research and Science Budget specifically will increase from £3.4 billion per year in 2007-08 to almost £4 billion per year by 2010-11—taking the Government's support for the UK's research base to its highest level ever.

Specifically the allocations will:

fund new commitments to the Office for the Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research (OSCHR)

support £120 million of collaborative work between the Technology Strategy Board and the Research Councils over the CSR period

enable relevant recommendations of the Sainsbury Review to be implemented

enable the Research Councils to fund research at 90 per cent. of its full economic cost

increase funding for the Higher Education Innovation Fund, and

provide capital funding to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Research Base and allow UK researchers to benefit from a range of new world-class facilities

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ALLOCATIONS

The UK continues to perform exceptionally well in research and, increasingly, its exploitation. We remain second only to the US in global scientific excellence (as measured by citations), while collaboration between the research base and business continues to grow ever stronger.

The allocations provide significant support for medical research. The Medical Research Council will receive almost £2 billion over the three years to help keep the UK at the forefront of medical advances. Joint investment with the Department of Health, joined up by OSCHR, will ensure that more fundamental research is translated into clinical practice. The funding will also enable the development of the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI) on the British Library site, and the rebuilding of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge (subject to approval of individual business plans by Government).

In response to the "Grand Challenges" outlined by the Chancellor at the announcement of the comprehensive spending review, the Research Councils are embarking on an exciting range of thematic research programmes. These programmes bring together partners from inside and outside the research community in an unprecedented effort to tackle these issues. Programmes include: "Living with Environmental Change", "Ageing", "Global Threats to Security" and "Energy".

This allocation makes resources available to drive forward the economic impact agenda in the face of global challenges. The Research Councils have each set out explicit strategies for delivering a step change in their economic impact. The strategies form a solid foundation from which Research Councils can further raise their emphasis on economic impact during this CSR spending period.

In addition, the Higher Education Innovation Fund will rise to £150 million per annum by 2010-11, providing more resources than ever before to support knowledge transfer between universities and business. The Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund will in future attract co-funding from other sources so that even more support can be made available to public sector laboratories as they commercialise their research.

We have increased the budget for the successful "Science Bridges" scheme to £12 million to foster stronger links with international researchers, alongside supporting international fellowships run by the National Academies. This will help forge stronger links with the US, China, and India in particular

A new Capital Investment Fund is being created for universities carrying out Research Council-funded projects. This permanent funding stream replaces the temporary Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF) programme, which has helped make good the backlog in investment in research infrastructure. The new fund will help universities to sustain this research infrastructure in the future.

HEALTH OF DISCIPLINES

The Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-14 sets out the Government's commitment to nurturing key disciplines. The Research Councils, Funding Councils, and National Academies have made significant progress. It is important that all key disciplines remain strong and vibrant. Research priorities will change over time but it is important that Government is confident that the combined decisions of the research councils properly underpin the health of key disciplines. This is important both for the future of research and, more widely, to ensure a flow of talented individuals into STEM subjects at University.

As a next step, I have asked Ian Diamond, as Chair of RCUK, to organise a series of reviews on the health of key research disciplines in the UK. The first of these reviews will be on physics, and will span at least three Research Councils (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council and Science and Technology Facilities Council). It will be led by Professor Bill Wakeham, Vice-Chancellor, University of Southampton.

LARGE EXPERIMENTAL FACILITIES

Investment in advanced experimental facilities is of critical importance to the long-term success of the research base. STFC invests significantly in national facilities (such as Diamond and Isis) and international subscriptions (for example the European research centre at CERN). The allocation to STFC supports the Government's vision for Harwell and Daresbury to be developed as Science and Innovation Campuses.

The Daresbury campus will be developed as a partnership between the STFC, the NWDA, the private sector and universities. I have asked Sir Tom McKillop to look specifically at the development of the Daresbury site as part of his wider independent review into the future of the Manchester City region and wider north-west economy.

Similarly, the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus is being developed as a scientific and high technology cluster in Oxfordshire.

CONCLUSION

World-class research in the UK is crucial to maintaining economic prosperity and responding to the challenges and opportunities of globalisation. Research plays a vital part in addressing key global and domestic challenges, such as climate change, energy, ageing, technological change and security. The research base also delivers improvements in public service delivery and contributes to improvements in education, health and culture.

The allocation of the science budget will continue to support the full spectrum of academic endeavour. It will ensure all benefits from the excellent research base are maximised by encouraging the full exploitation of fundamental research. It will support the long-term sustainability of research in the UK, whilst encouraging further international collaboration.

This report can be viewed at: http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/URN07114.pdf

## JUSTICE

### Amalgamation of Divisions of General Commissioners

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** I have made an order under Section 2(6) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 amalgamating a number of divisions in Leicestershire, Devon, Dorset, North Yorkshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire and London as follows:

With effect from 1 January 2008:

The Hinckley Division, the Loughborough Division and the Rutland Division are merged into one division called the North Leicestershire and Rutland Division

The Plym Division and the Stanborough and Coleridge Division are merged into one division called the Plymouth and Stanborough Division

The Coventry Division and the Nuneaton Division are merged into one division and called the Coventry and Nuneaton Division

The Willesden Division and the North West London Division are merged into one division called the North West London Division

The North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth Division is renamed the West Dorset Division

The New Forest West Division is abolished

The New Forest East and Wessex Division is renamed the Wessex Division

And with effect from 8 February 2008:

The Harrogate Division and the Ripon Division are merged into one division called the Harrogate and Ripon Division

All the amalgamations were made at the request of the divisions with the aim of improving the organisational efficiency of the General Commissioners in all the divisions concerned. Copies of the Amalgamation of Divisions of General Commissioners have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

### Review of Voting Systems

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills):** In the "Governance of Britain" Green Paper released in July this year the Government reiterated their commitment to review the experience of the new voting systems introduced in the United Kingdom since 1997, by the end of this year. The Government have completed this review and will make it ready for publication in January 2008 when Parliament reconvenes.

## TRANSPORT

### Autumn Performance Report 2007

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly):** I have today published my Department's Autumn Performance Report for 2007 (CM 7266). Copies have been laid before Parliament and placed in the House Libraries.

The Autumn Performance Report provides Parliament with a progress report on performance against the Department's Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets using data available up to November 2007.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 12 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### Free Cash Machines

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher):** Following the March 2005 Treasury Committee report on ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) charging, the Treasury invited the Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, the right hon. John McFall, to chair a working group on ATMs to take forward work on key issues. The working group, which included banks, independent ATM operators and consumer groups, published its report on 13 December 2006.

The working group announced an agreement to provide around 600 new free cash machines across 1,707 target low-income areas that it identified as lacking convenient access to these machines. To achieve this, a market-based financial incentive—known as a "financial inclusion premium"—was introduced, to encourage ATM operators to place or retain free ATMs in deprived areas with a low expected volume of transactions. The working group also agreed to implement improved transparency rules for charging cash machines.

The Government are pleased to report that, almost a year on from the publication of the working group's report, the industry has made excellent progress towards its goals of placing around 600 non-charging machines in low-income areas across the UK, with more than 2 million individuals on low incomes standing to benefit.

As of 23 November 2007, sites for 543 of the 600 new ATMs required have been identified. Of these, 337 new free machines are already in use, with 63 per cent. of these ATMs based in deprived areas and receiving the "financial inclusion premium". Encouragingly, five of these new cash machines have proved so popular that their level of withdrawals means that they have now graduated from the "financial inclusion premium" scheme.

Banks, building societies and independent ATM operators have all contributed new free-to-use cash machines; independent ATM operators have provided or are in the process of supplying around 40 per cent. of the confirmed new non-charging ATMs. The UK ATM network, Link, is continuing to work with its member banks and ATM operators to identify suitable sites in the remaining target areas, and is engaging closely in this exercise with Members of Parliament, local authorities, consumer councils and landlords.

The benefits in terms of financial inclusion are clear. Data from Link suggest that the new ATMs currently in operation or under contract will enable 1,190,474 residents in the target low-income areas to access cash more conveniently and manage their money more effectively.

In terms of improved transparency, all operators of cash machines that charge users for withdrawals have met the end of June 2007 deadline to improve the on-screen standards of "at a glance" signage. This means that it is clear to a consumer when a charge is applied when withdrawing cash. Good progress is also being made by operators to enhance external signage by the end of December 2007.

The Government are encouraged by the substantial progress achieved, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in extending free access to cash to those who need it most.

Full details about progress made is available on the Link internet website: http://www.link.co.uk/atm/access_to_cash_progress/index.html

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Housing Revenue Account

**The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper):** I am today announcing a review of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system to be led jointly by officials in my Department and in HM Treasury, reporting to Ministers in both Departments.

In the housing Green Paper, "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable" published in July, we said that we wanted to examine the case for change to the redistributive Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. The purpose of the review is to ensure that we have a sustainable, long-term system for financing council housing and that this system is consistent with wider housing policy, including the establishment of a regulator of social housing.

This system should be fair to both tenants and taxpayers. It should be transparent, giving a clear and accurate picture of the balance of support from local and central Government. It should enable delivery of agreed standards of service and accommodation. It should recognise that social rents should help tenants gain and retain work, whilst acknowledging the need for landlords to improve the quality and efficiency of services. And it should be affordable and not expose Government to unacceptable fiscal risks.

The review will build on the work of the pilots we have conducted with six local authorities which looked at the costs and benefits of councils operating outside the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. It will consider evidence about the need to spend on management, maintenance and repairs. It will consider rent policy, including the relationship between council rents and rents set by other social housing providers. It will also consider how the self-financing model developed in the pilot exercise would fit with the aims of the review and, if it is consistent with these, how it could be implemented. And it will consider whether the rules which govern the operation of the HRA need to be changed in order to fit with a new system of financing.

The review will make its final report in Spring 2009, setting out a way forward for the subsidy system, rents policy across all social housing, and spending needs for council housing. It will be followed by a period of consultation. This will enable its findings to be considered in the next spending review. It will also be asked to provide earlier advice in 2008 to inform decisions about council rents and subsidy determinations in the remaining two years of the current spending period.

The report will also support our aim of a single regulator for social housing across all providers by developing a policy framework of rents and standards for the regulator of social housing. This output will also be delivered in 2008.

The review team will establish its own detailed working methods. This will however include opportunities for practitioners and stakeholders to put forward their views.

## Social and Affordable Housing

**The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper):** This Government are strongly committed to ensuring that social housing meets the needs of all tenants. The John Hills review found that while investment in social housing had delivered real improvements, tenants living in social housing still faced significant social and economic challenges. As part of the work to improve social housing we are setting out a series of further steps in five key areas. These are part of an ongoing programme of work to improve social housing and make it fairer, more effective, and more personal.

*Increasing Supply and Investment in Bricks and Mortar*

Our first priority, as set out in the Green Paper, is to increase the supply of housing. By 2010, we will be building 70,000 social homes a year. To increase the supply of social housing over the next three years, we are today confirming allocations totalling £8.4 billion to be shared across the regions. We will be allocating £8.4 billion across the regions over the next three years. Every single region is getting at least a 5 per cent. increase every year over the next three years—with areas of greatest need receiving far more than that. The Housing Corporation and later the Homes and Communities Agency will be tasked with spending this money most effectively.

We will also be investing £2.4 billion in the ALMO programme over the next three years. We expect that this will bring a further 150,000 homes up to standard. A further four ALMOs are joining the programme today, from Charnwood, North-East Derbyshire, Stevenage and Redbridge. A further £200 million will support ALMOs already on the programme which have yet to pass their inspections. We are continuing to assess the remaining round 6 funding bids and will allocate further programme places to ALMOs as individual funding allocations are finalised.

We will also be writing to all stock owning authorities announcing the 2008 Housing Transfer Programme. This will enable local authorities and their tenants, if they wish, the opportunity to transfer ownership of their stock to a housing association to bring in private sector funding needed for further improvements in housing, to build on the decent homes investment that has taken place, and for estate transformation schemes.

Finally, almost £2 billion from the regional housing pot will fund improvements to local authority owned and private sector stock.

*Modernising Institutional Structures*

The Housing and Regeneration Bill is creating a new regulatory framework, responding directly to Martin Cave's recommendation that tenants should have a greater say over where they live and how their homes are managed.

This new framework will reward performance and innovation, giving greater freedom to good housing associations. The new regulator will have a range of powers to intervene where tenants' needs are not being met.

Initially, the regulator will only have the power to regulate registered social landlords. But in response to demand across the sector, we are committed to extending this new framework to local authorities as rapidly as possible. So I have asked Professor Ian Cole of Sheffield University to work with all key stakeholders in establishing the detail of how this will work in practice, and align with the new performance framework for local government.

We will also be conducting a review of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (HRAS) system. I have provided a separate written statement to the House on this review.

*Improving Housing Services, Mobility and Choice*

We know that the most successful local authorities offer their tenants not only a housing service, but housing options—a service which is more responsive to individual need and to changes in individual circumstances. We also know that the system is not meeting the needs of too many groups at the moment—often due to a lack of mobility in the system. So I am setting out a package of measures to promote greater mobility for social housing tenants.

We will be investing £1.8 million that will deliver 18 new choice-based lettings schemes offering people the chance to move across different local authorities. A further £2 million investment in the next two years will enable all local authorities to be part of such a scheme by 2010.

We know that a major consequence of this lack of mobility is overcrowding—a problem that blights the lives of thousands of families. As set out in the Children's Plan yesterday, we are committed to updating the standard by which we assess overcrowding. And we are today publishing an action plan to achieve that ambition, which has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Initial funding of £15 million will tackle severe overcrowding across 38 pathfinders including all London boroughs and five other hotspots (Birmingham, Bradford, Leicester, Liverpool and Manchester). We estimate that these local authorities cover more than half of overcrowded households in the country. This work will help identify costs and the time needed before we roll this approach out across the country.

Elderly people too are often affected by the lack of mobility, if they want to move closer to their families or to smaller homes. So we will consult on changing the reasonable preference criteria to benefit older people who want to downsize.

Finally, there will be an independent, comprehensive review of the private rented sector and we will set out further details in the new year.

*Improving Social Mobility with Greater Opportunities to Work and to Own*

Social housing in the 21st century needs to offer people much greater opportunity to progress. As John Hills identified, many social housing estates have high levels of worklessness.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions have already announced a £1.5 billion programme targeted at areas with high levels of deprivation and worklessness. We will be working to ensure that social landlords and tenants are closely involved in tackling this.

A programme run with the Department for Work and Pensions will sponsor five areas over the next three years to develop a new approach to promote wide-ranging advice on housing options alongside employment and training advice.

We also want to make sure that we offer greater choice to tenants in social housing—not just about where they live, but with options to move into other types of tenure. More social tenants should have the opportunity to progress into homeownership. We have been running a pilot scheme known as social homebuy to offer those who cannot buy outright a stepping stone onto the property ladder. We will be continuing the pilots. Many tenants have been put off by the costs of taking on full maintenance, and so we will work with social landlords to develop options for shared maintenance costs before assessing the next steps to promote wider access to shared ownership among social tenants.

*Supporting Mixed Income Communities*

Finally, John Hills found that single tenure estates in deprived areas were particularly associated with social problems and high levels of tenant dissatisfaction. We want to promote the development of mixed and stable communities, characterised by a mix of tenures.

We want the Homes and Communities Agency to look further once it is established at how to promote mixed income communities in existing areas. We will also set out a Communities Fund. The fund will work with local communities on how to develop greater mix of tenures. Details of how this programme will work will be announced in the new year.

## HEALTH

### Strategic Framework for Funding and Investment

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis):** Today the Department is to launch a consultation on proposals for a strategic framework for funding and investment support to third sector organisations. The document has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

The purpose of the review, informed through the consultation process, is to develop a framework for strategic investment in the sector by the Department and transform the current, rather piecemeal, arrangements for funding the sector into a strategic portfolio of investments that will more explicitly support the delivery of the Department's objectives and priorities for health and social care. This consultation document sets out the vision of a more strategic approach to the Department's investment in the sector, that reinforces the sector's value in a way that reflects the Department's role in creating the conditions for innovation and improvement in service delivery across health and social care.

The consultation proposals are set in a coherent framework with four key objectives to:

allow more coherent investment;

support evaluation of outcomes and benefits;

increase value for money; and

reinforce the sector's integral role.

The consultation process will help to further the Government's aim of supporting the development of a strong and sustainable third sector, and will have the benefit of not only promoting and supporting the third sector's role in delivery of the health and social care agenda more effectively, but also promoting strong and sustainable communities through both community involvement and volunteering.

The consultation will run until 20 March 2008 with a view to the Department setting out proposals, based on the responses we receive to the consultation, in a document to be published summer 2008.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Control Order Powers (11 September 2007 to 10 December 2007)

**The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty):** Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Home Secretary to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorist-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

During the period 11 September 2007 to 10 December 2007, there were no new control orders and no control orders have been revoked, or renewed, or expired.

As stated in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that each individual poses. Each control order is kept under review to ensure that obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold Control Order Review Groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, six review groups were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad-hoc basis as specific issues arose.

In total, 14 control orders are currently in force, eight of which are in respect of British citizens. Four of the individuals live in the Metropolitan Police Service area with the rest living within other police force areas.

During this reporting period, 47 modifications of control order obligations were made. Fifteen requests to modify a non-derogating control order obligation were refused. A right of appeal exists in section 10(1) and (3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order, without consent, and to refuse a request by a controlled person to modify any such obligation. Appeals have been made in respect of two modification requests that were refused. One modification appeal made by a controlled individual was heard on 25 September 2007 and it was dismissed by the High Court. The other modification appeal has not yet been heard.

There have been no prosecutions of controlled persons for breaches completed during this reporting period. An individual who is not subject to a control order was, however, found guilty on 10 September 2007 of assisting an individual to breach his control order.

Judgments relating to a number of control orders were handed down by the House of Lords on 31 October 2007. The House of Lords had heard the cases of *JJ and others*, *MB*, *AF* and *E* in July and considered both articles 5 (Right to Liberty) and 6 (Right to a Fair Trial) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). In relation to *E*, the House of Lords also considered the extent, if any, of the Home Secretary's duties under section 8 of the 2005 Act.

The House of Lords upheld the control orders regime and the effect of the judgment is that no existing control orders need to be weakened. Furthermore, their Lordships did not find that the review process in the cases before them had necessarily been unfair.

In relation to article 5, the House of Lords agreed unanimously that control orders with curfews of up to 14 hours did not amount to a deprivation of liberty under article 5. It was held by a 3:2 majority that control orders with 18-hour curfews do amount to a breach of article 5. The Home Secretary is disappointed that the House of Lords found against control orders containing 18-hour curfews which she feels are necessary, in certain circumstances, to protect national security. The Home Secretary believes that the ruling does, however, allow us to impose curfews of up to 16 hours.

In relation to article 6 the House of Lords unanimously held that a non-derogating control order does not amount to a criminal charge. It was further held by a majority of 4:1 that procedures for the courts to review non-derogating control orders—in particular the procedures for withholding closed material—do not inevitably amount to a breach of the civil limb of article 6. It will now be for the High Court to review the cases of *AF* and *MB* in light of their Lordships' decision and determine whether they are article 6 compliant.

In the case of *E*, the House of Lords upheld the Home Secretary's arguments that it is not a pre-condition to the making of a control order that that she must consult with the chief of the police force about whether there is evidence available that could realistically be used to prosecute the person for a terrorism-related offence, and that there must be an absence of a reasonable prospect of prosecution for such an offence. They found that the duty to consult with the police with regard to prosecution would only lead to the control order being quashed in exceptional cases.

There have been no substantive reviews during this quarter, since the section 3(10) review for *GG & NN*, which commenced on 9 November 2007, and was adjourned on 12 November 2007.

## Offensive Weapons

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker):** The Home Office has today published a summary of responses to the consultation paper, "Banning Offensive Weapons", which sought views on further measures to restrict the supply of weapons which are being used in violent crime.

The Government's primary concern is public safety. Ministers have concluded from the consultation that banning the sale, hire and import of Samurai swords is necessary better to protect local communities, and will make an important contribution to our wider strategy to tackle violent crime.

The Government will now proceed with seeking to add Samurai swords to the Criminal Justice Act (Offensive Weapons) Order 1988 through the appropriate parliamentary procedures.

In reaching a conclusion to proceed with banning these weapons we have taken into account both responses to the consultation paper and the views expressed in a larger amount of correspondence which we have received since we first raised the possibility of amending the Offensive Weapons Order. We will seek to protect the legitimate use of Samurai swords by certain groups through enforceable exemptions and defences.

Copies of the consultation document are available in the Library of the House and on the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk

## Terrorism Act 2000

**The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty):** I wish to inform the House of a recent error in processing an application for section 44 Stop and Search powers under the Terrorism Act 2000.

The application by Sussex police, dated 3 September 2007, did not follow the recognised procedure. Forces submit applications to the National Joint Unit (NJU) at the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) which are then sent to the Home Office for ministerial authorisation. This must occur within 48 hours of the request being signed by an officer of assistant chief constable or above (Commander in the MPS) in the relevant force. In this case, due primarily to a process failure, the application was not passed to the Home

Office for ministerial authorisation but the force continued to use the powers for the period up to 25 September when the next authorisation was submitted to the NJU. Sussex police has confirmed that 259 stops and searches were carried out at Gatwick airport during the unauthorised period. This relates to the period between the previous authorisation expiring and the next one being signed by the force.

This error was identified on 25 September 2007, when an application for section 44 powers was received by the Home Office making reference to the previous authorisation for Sussex police. I met officials at the Home Office on 27 September to discuss the matter. Officials were in contact with both the then chief constable of Sussex police and the NJU to establish where and how the failure took place, and to put in place more robust systems to ensure that there was no repeat of this error. On 25 October I subsequently wrote to the new chief constable of Sussex police outlining my concern that this error had occurred. I also wrote to Lord Carlile in his role as the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation. Lord Carlile replied on 9 November to indicate that he would be recording this incident in his annual review, which I expect to be published in Spring 2008. A note from ACPO (TAM) (Association of Chief Police Officers - Terrorism and Allied Matters) was disseminated to all forces on 14 November outlining the more robust section 44 process.

No arrests occurred as a result of these stop-and-searches; however, Sussex police will shortly be writing to all of the individuals concerned to apologise. Since this error came to light, it has been brought to my attention that this is not the first time that Sussex police have used these powers without proper authorisation. Regrettably, a similar incident occurred in June 2003. All steps have now been taken to ensure, with the NJU, that such regrettable and serious omissions do not occur again.

In light of this, Home Office officials are reviewing previous section 44 authorisations to identify any other occasions where the power has been used in error. Officials will keep Lord Carlile and me informed and I will report back to the House as appropriate.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### GAERC (Economic Parntership Agreements)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas):** I represented the UK for the session on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels on 10 December 2007. The Foreign Secretary attended all other sessions for the UK.

Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Development Commissioner Louis Michel represented the European Commission and gave an update on negotiations and proposed that the Council approve the Regulation 2007 0205/ACC. The Commission confirmed that to date 17 countries had signed a goods-only Economic Partnership Agreement and reported that there is a good possibility that Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon, Namibia and the Caribbean will sign agreements in the coming week. The Commission believes that the recent progress was due to their flexibility and generosity and the approaching external deadline of 31 December 2006 when the Cotonou agreement, which governs current trade relations between the ACP and EU, will expire.

Our objective at the Council was to continue to maximise the development benefits of EPAs, in particular to protect the duty and quota-free access from 1 January and the liberalised rules of origin offer from amendment, whilst also ensuring that no ACP country has worse market access from 1 January. The UK made the first intervention and called on the Council and Commission to ensure that poor countries do not face tariff increases as of 1 January 2007. The UK also urged negotiations to continue over the coming days and for further discussions to take place at a Council meeting next week. We also welcomed President Barroso's recent commitment to review progress on EPAs in the new year and the Commission's unwillingness to adversely amend the duty and quota-free access and rules of origin offers.

This stance was supported by the Netherlands who also argued for a debate at future Councils before the end of the year. Ireland took a similar view. However, a series of other member states noted their support for immediate approval of the regulation as of 10 December. The presidency concluded therefore that the Council adopted the regulation on EPAs, which formalises the market access offer of 100 per cent. duty-free quota-free market access to the EU with improved rules of origin for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries that have signed WTO-compatible agreements.

The UK, along with the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland therefore made a declaration setting out our continued concern for non-LDCs who have not yet initialled an agreement and urged the Commission to show maximum flexibility over the coming days in order to secure agreement with the remaining non-LDCs in particular.

The Commission stated they will continue negotiations with other countries and that those ACP countries which sign agreements before the end of 2007 will also benefit from this improved access to the EU from 1 January. The Commission will report back to the General Affairs and External Relations Council in January 2008.

## JUSTICE

### Bereavement Damages

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** In their consultation paper on the law on damages which was published on 4 May 2007, the Government announced their intention to increase the level of bereavement damages awarded under section 1A of the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 every three years for inflation in line with the retail prices index (rounded to the nearest £100), and that the first such increase would be made later in the year. Bereavement damages were last increased from £7,500 to £10,000 on 1 April 2002.

To give effect to this, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has laid before Parliament an order increasing the level of bereavement damages awarded under section 1A of the Fatal Accidents Act from £10,000 to £11,800. An order has also been laid under Article 3A(5) of the Fatal Accidents (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 to make the same increase in the level of the award in Northern Ireland. The orders will take effect from 1 January 2008, and the increased level of the award will apply to all causes of action that accrue on or after that date.

### Homicide

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle):** I am today announcing the next stage in the review of the law of homicide.

In July 2005, the Law Commission was asked by the Government to review the law of murder in England and Wales. In December 2006, it published its report on "Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide" with wide-ranging recommendations for changes to the law. That report was intended as the first stage in the review of the law, with the Government undertaking the second stage.

It is that second stage which begins today. The Government have considered the Law Commission's recommendations carefully and have decided to proceed on a step-by-step basis, looking first at the recommendations for:

reformed partial defences to murder of diminished responsibility and provocation (including the use of excessive force in self-defence);

reformed offences of complicity in relation to homicide; and

improved procedures for dealing with infanticide.

The Government believe it is right to deal with these crucial elements of the existing law before moving on to consider the wider structural proposals from the Law Commission.

We want the review to be open and transparent. Over the next few months we will be talking to key stakeholders, both inside and outside the criminal justice system, to seek their views on the Law Commission's recommendations in these areas. We will publish draft clauses for consultation next summer prior to introducing any necessary legislation.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Grassroots Grants (Lead National Partner)

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Phil Hope):** I am announcing today that the Community Development Foundation will be the lead national partner for Grassroots Grants, the Government's programme to help develop and sustain the grant funding available to small community organisations in England.

The final report of the review of the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration (Cmnd 7189) announced that, in addition to the £80 million we will be making available for small grants to the community sector over the CSR period, we would also make £50 million available in capital grants to local independent foundations to invest in endowment funds. These capital grants will generate income to support frontline organisations in the future and lever in additional money from the private sector on a matched basis. The allocation of £130 million underlines the high importance that the Government attach to this strategy.

This combined programme will be called Grassroots Grants. It will be targeted at improving the grant funding available to the smallest community organisations which play a vital role in building strong and active communities. It will be delivered locally by independent local funders with good knowledge of their local communities and the ability to reach out and engage both small community organisations and donors.

The Community Development Foundation as lead national partner will be responsible for running a selection process to identify and appoint the local funders. It will also manage the programme once the local funders have been appointed. CDF has considerable understanding of the community sector in England and experience of managing grant programmes. The appointment is being made under a framework agreement for the provision of grant administration services which the Government have with CDF and other service providers.

CDF will open the application process to select local funders in January and applications will be invited by April. Appointments of local funders will be made in June. Full details of the application process and the programme will be announced in January.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 13 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### Finance Bill

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy):** The Government took action against two types of avoidance schemes involving the leasing of plant or machinery at PBR 2007. Further disclosures and other evidence indicates that two further types of avoidance schemes involving the leasing of plant or machinery have placed, and could continue to place, substantial sums of tax at risk.

Tax avoidance is unfair on the majority of taxpayers and can undermine the funding of public services. The Government are determined to take appropriate and prompt action to counter tax avoidance. Therefore the Government propose to introduce appropriate legislation in the 2008 Finance Bill that will be effective from today, 13 December 2007.

A draft of the material that will be contained in Finance Bill 2008, together with draft explanatory notes and background material, will be published today on HMRC's website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk. HMRC's technical note giving the relevant background to this measure has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and is also accessible on HMRC's website.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Companies Act

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I announced to the House on 7 November 2007 that the Government had decided to delay final implementation of the Companies Act 2006 until October 2009, in the light of advice from the Registrar of Companies that he can not be absolutely confident of implementing the necessary changes to Companies House systems and processes by October 2008. I also explained that we would consult key stakeholders about the commencement date for provisions due to be commenced in October 2008 which do not necessitate changes to Companies House systems and processes.

In the light of our discussions and meetings with key stakeholders, the Government have decided that the following provisions, listed in my earlier statement, should be commenced with effect from 1 October 2008:

sections 69 to 74: objection to company names;

sections 82 to 85: trading disclosures;

sections 155 to 159: provisions relating to corporate directors and under-age directors;

sections 175 to 177: general duties of directors in respect of conflicts of interest;

sections 182 to 187: declaration by a director of an interest in an existing transaction or arrangement;

repeal of the restrictions under the Companies Act 1985 on financial assistance for acquisition of shares in private companies, including the "whitewash" procedure.

In view of the strength of business representations and of further advice from the Registrar of Companies, the Government have decided in addition to commence with effect from 1 October 2008:

the new procedure for private companies to make capital reductions supported by a solvency statement instead of by a court order.

Stakeholders highlighted the major benefit to business of implementation in 2008 of this new procedure. The Government had originally not proposed this, because it would require some changes to Companies House systems and processes. We have looked at this again in the light of the points made by business, and I am pleased to say that the Registrar of Companies believes that the necessary changes can be made by October 2008.

There are also two sets of provisions which we have decided to commence with effect from 6 April 2008:

sections 121 and 128 (register of members: removal of entries relating to former members);

sections 811 (4), 812 and 814: inspection of register of interests in a company's shares.

I aim to make before Christmas a commencement order in respect of all provisions to be commenced in 2008, other than those relating to capital reduction supported by a solvency statement and the removal of special provisions about accounts and audit for charitable companies. The capital reduction provisions (including section 654 on distributions of reserves arising from a capital reduction) will be commenced through a separate commencement order to be laid in draft in 2008. There will also be a separate commencement order on the audit of small charitable companies.

### North-West RDA

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I have decided to appoint the new board members listed below:

Professor John Brooks
Peter Allen
Susan Williams
Robert Hough
Cllr Anthony McDermott

All the new appointments will be for a period of three years.

The appointments began on 14 December 2007 and will expire on 13 December 2010.

I have placed further details of the appointments in the Library of both Houses. They were all made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

BIOGRAPHIES

*Peter Allen MBE* is a Cumbrian hill farmer based near Penrith.

As Chair of the Sheepmeat and Goatmeat Advisory Committee to the EU, he has been involved in reforming and implementing the European sheep regime. Peter for many years was actively involved with the NFU, representing farming and rural issues locally, regionally and nationally. With many others he worked with aspects of industry and Government to control and eradicate foot and mouth disease in 2000-02, and he was the only farmer member of the Royal Society Inquiry into Infectious Diseases of Animals 2001-02. He is currently Chair of the NFU, Mutual Northern Area board, Chair of RUMA—(UK body promoting the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture), and a board member of Natural England and the North West Regional Environment Protection Advisory Committee.

He holds no other ministerial appointments and has not taken part in any political activities in the last three years.

*John Brooks* is the vice-chancellor of Manchester Metropolitan University. In his previous job at the university of Wolverhampton he chaired a regeneration project after the closure of Rover, which involved infrastructure development and small business support.

In 1992 to '98 he helped to create Bodycote-SHU Coatings, a company that offers tool manufacturers the opportunity to use physical vapour deposition coating machines. He chairs the board of the Equality Challenge Unit, and is on the Boards of Universities UK (and their long term strategy group), the Oxford Road Corridor Partnership and the Universities & Colleges Employers Association.

He holds no other ministerial appointments and has not been involved in any political activities in the last three years.

*Robert Hough* was Deputy Chairman and latterly executive director of Peel Holdings for over 13 years and a non-executive director of a number of other companies, including Cheshire Building Society, Alfred McAlpine plc and Provident Financial plc. Peel's businesses include airports, ports, land use, planning, development, waste, energy and the environment.

A board member of the university of Manchester and a member of the North West Regional Assembly executive board, he also chairs New East Manchester Limited (one of the first urban regeneration companies to be established) and is a member and former Chair of the North West Business Leadership team.

He lives in Bowdon in Cheshire.

He holds no other ministerial appointments and has not taken part in any political activities in the last three years.

*Tony McDermott MBE* is a resident of Widnes and leader of the Council. He was educated at St. Edward's college Liverpool, and Manchester University. He taught in Lancashire and Liverpool for 34 years.

He is a board member of the Local Government Association Improvement and Development Agency, the Mersey Partnership, and the North West Improvement Network. Chair of the North West Regional Transport Group, leader of Halton borough council and former Chair of the North West Regional Assembly.

He is a member of the Urban Commission Executive and the Northern Way Transport Compact.

He is a supporter of Asbestos Victims Support Group and a board member of the Five Boroughs NHS Mental Health trust. He holds no other ministerial appointments.

*Susan Williams* was a nutritionist for the charity Action and Research into Multiple Sclerosis until 2001. She became Conservative leader of Trafford borough council in 2004.

Member of the Manchester Enterprises board, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Economic Development board and the Trafford Local Strategic Partnership board.

She has acted as a political agent for the Conservative party. In 2001 she stood for Parliament in Wythenshawe and Sale East, and in 2006 she was selected as the Parliamentary candidate for Bolton West.

She lives in Altrincham, in Cheshire.

She holds no other ministerial appointments.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Central-Local Concordat

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears):** I am informing the House that I have signed the Central-Local Concordat on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. The Concordat was co-signed by Sir Simon Milton, Chair of the Local Government Association.

This historic new written agreement establishes for the first time a framework of principles for how central and local government work together to serve the public. Central Government departments and councils have committed to uphold these principles.

The Concordat meets a key commitment set out in the Governance of Britain Green Paper earlier this year in delivering a fundamental transformation in the way we govern. It sets out the rights and responsibilities of central and local government.

It is explicit that powers are best exercised at the lowest effective and practical level, enshrining the Government's commitment to decentralisation and devolution of power to councils, communities and citizens.

In addition it sets out key priorities which central and local government will deliver together, including tackling antisocial behaviour and crime, delivering good local services, more opportunities for young people, and promoting enterprise. It is an important step towards building local communities which enjoy economic prosperity, safe and stable streets and estates, a clean environment, and opportunities for all citizens to shape their own futures.

A copy of the Concordat has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Local Government Pensions

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** The Government's commitment to provide decent final salary pensions for those employed by local authorities and other organisations associated with local government is matched by the need to ensure that members' pensions are secure, affordable and viable, and fair to taxpayers who guarantee their security.

The Government see it as critical to maintain stability of costs in the scheme over the years ahead, particularly in the new-look Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in England and Wales from 1 April 2008. The intention remains to ensure that no additional costs are imposed on taxpayers or employers. This objective is central to any considerations involving amendments to the scheme's regulatory framework.

A statutory consultation with all scheme stakeholders in England and Wales on proposals to extend the current levels of protection in the scheme for older employees began on 5 July 2007 and ended on 1 October 2007. The protections were originally introduced by the local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) and (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2006 and took effect from 1 October 2006. The draft proposals would involve amending the regulations to provide a full, rather than a tapered, protection for the period 2016 to 2020, together with appropriate offsetting savings for the estimated cost of this benefit improvement.

To ensure the continuing solvency of the scheme and to meet the Government's standing policy on ensuring no adverse effects on taxpayers, the costs of implementing any scheme amendments to improve the level of protections would need to be provided from within the scheme.

The costings for the additional rule of 85 protections were provided by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD), based on the data provided for the 2004 LGPS actuarial valuation exercise. GAD estimated that the capital cost of removing the current tapered protections between 2016 and 2020 was some £0.35 billion—£0.4 billion. In payroll terms, this equates to about 0.1 per cent. or some £25 million annually for 20 years.

If no agreed means of providing the necessary resources to extend the proposed level of protection emerge from the consultation, then it will be necessary to retain the present level of protection.

The responses received to the recent consultation exercise have been considered carefully and analysed against agreed criteria regarding affordability and legality, as set out in the Department's consultation letter of 5 July.

The consultation has demonstrated strong views from all stakeholders in terms both of the level of protections and affordability. I wish, however, to be clear about the most recent position in the scheme regarding costs, the likely numbers of potentially affected older scheme members, and the range of other cost-influencing variables.

In the light of these representations, I have taken no final decision on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise and, in view of the data from the 2007 LGPS actuarial valuations which are due to become available early in the new year, I have decided to ask the Local Government Pension Scheme Policy Review Group, with the assistance of GAD, to undertake a fresh costings exercise using emerging data from the 2007 LGPS actuarial valuations. This will allow a new assessment of the current cost position and also provide an opportunity for all the interested stakeholders to engage fully in the review process.

The exercise for updating of costs is expected to be completed early in the new year. A final decision on the proposed amendment and within the policy parameters of affordability and legality will then be made, taking full account of any further representations which may be made by stakeholders.

## DEFENCE

### Defence Intelligence Staff Estate

**The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth):** This statement follows on from that made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 3 July 2006, (*Official Report*, column 28WS) which covered the intent to close RAF Brampton. Once DE&S units have vacated the site, the Programme to Rationalise and Integrate the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) Estate (PRIDE) will relocate those remaining to RAF Wyton. The programme's aim is to collocate a number of Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) departments to one state-of-the-art, purpose-built facility at RAF Wyton. New service accommodation will be constructed at RAF Wyton in order to accommodate those moving to the base.

In order to maximise the benefits of DIS co-location at RAF Wyton, PRIDE increment two will move the Joint Aeronautical and Geospatial Organisation headquarters and elements of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) currently based at Hermitage, West Berkshire, to join the Intelligence Collection group headquarters and Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre at RAF Wyton. The Royal School of Military Survey, currently at Hermitage, will assimilate with other training elements at the DIS site at Chicksands. Our intention is that these moves will lead to the disposal of the Hermitage site, subject to continued value for money being proven.

The move will directly result in the loss of approximately 30 posts currently based at Hermitage, mostly in the support roles. MOD will work to minimise the impact to those affected by providing all the help it can, relocating personnel and avoiding compulsory redundancies where possible.

### Nimrod Review

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** I told the House on 4 December that, following the board of inquiry's report about the loss of Nimrod XV230, I would establish an independent review by a senior Queen's counsel into a range of broader issues which were outside the scope of the BOI's investigation. I am now able to set out the details of that review.

The review will be conducted by Charles Haddon-Cave QC. Mr. Haddon-Cave has wide experience of aviation and safety matters, having been instructed in all the major aviation and marine inquiries in England in the last 20 years. His report will be published in fall, subject to considerations of operational security, together with my response to it.

The terms of reference for the review are as follows:

In the light of the board of inquiry report:

> to examine the arrangements for assuring the airworthiness and safe operation of the Nimrod MR2 in the period from its introduction in 1979 to the accident on 2 September 2006, including hazard analysis, the safety case completed in 2005, maintenance arrangements, and responses to any earlier incidents which might have highlighted the risk and led to corrective action;
>
> to assess where responsibility lies for any failures and what lessons are to be learned;
>
> to assess more broadly the process for compiling safety cases, taking account of best practice in the civilian and military world;
>
> and to make recommendations to the Secretary of State as soon as practicable, if necessary by way of interim reports.

Appropriate technical expertise will be made available to the reviewer. The reviewer will be able to recommend a public inquiry if he considers this necessary.

The review will have the full support of the Ministry of Defence. All relevant papers will be made available and everyone who can assist the review will be instructed to do so. In order to encourage openness, evidence given during the course of the review will not be used in disciplinary proceedings against the individual who gave it unless there is evidence of gross misconduct. The MOD will also provide Mr. Haddon-Cave, at his request, with a secretariat for the review.

BAE Systems and QinetiQ have confirmed that Mr. Haddon-Cave will have their full co-operation. The MOD and the companies are committed to ensuring that the review has available to it all the technical expertise that it will require. I would expect any other companies whose assistance may be required to follow suit.

Mr. Haddon-Cave will ensure that the families are kept informed of the progress of the review.

It is of the utmost importance that an authoritative and independent analysis is conducted of the background circumstances to the loss of Nimrod XV230. The task which Mr. Haddon-Cave has undertaken will be complex but I have asked him to ensure that information that would assist our understanding of this tragic loss is published without undue delay.

### Innovation Strategy

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has today launched its strategy for creating greater innovation within the defence supply chain. The MOD innovation strategy builds on the Defence Industrial Defence Strategy (DIS) published in 2005 as a Defence White Paper (Cm6697). The DIS set out a commitment to achieve a better understanding of the innovation process within the defence supply chain.

The new innovation strategy identifies the main challenges to innovation in delivery of our defence capability. It expresses actions to address these challenges in terms of five distinct pillars. These pillars show our intent to articulate our capability needs better, provide transparency in how we translate these needs and aspirations through to delivery of capability, highlight our commitment to open architectures which will in turn foster insertion of new or improved technology, demonstrate our commitment to new business models that provide incentives for both customers and suppliers to achieve greater innovation and communicate our desire to maintain the pace of MOD's acquisition processes.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Autumn Performance Report

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 2007 Autumn Performance report will be published today. The report highlights progress since the publication of the departmental report in May towards the Department's outstanding Public Service Agreement targets. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report is also available on Defra's website.

### Animal Pathogens

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I announced on 7 September that I had asked Sir Bill Callaghan to lead a review of the regulatory framework for handling animal pathogens.

The purpose of the review was to take forward recommendations of the HSE's report on potential breaches of biosecurity at the Pirbright site in 2007 and Professor Spratt's review of the safety of UK facilities handling FMD virus; in particular to consider:

> Any changes needed to clarify and strengthen the regulatory framework for animal pathogens, in the light of that for human pathogens,
>
> Any steps needed to ensure independence and clarity on the separate roles and responsibilities of funders, regulators, customers and the institutions themselves, and
>
> Any steps needed to provide clear lines of accountability, inspection protocols and responses to non-compliance.

Sir Bill Callaghan was assisted in his work by representatives from HSE, HPA , DEFRA, the farming community and Professor George Griffin (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens). I am very grateful to Sir Bill and his team for the swift and thorough way in which they have completed their task.

I am accepting all of the recommendations set out in the report and I am determined to ensure that DEFRA works quickly with the other Departments and agencies involved to take forward the necessary changes. I set out in more detail below the position in respect of each recommendation.

The regulatory framework for specified animal pathogens was first introduced in 1993, and there have been limited changes since then. The report recognises that there are in fact three overlapping but separate sets of legislation which apply to the handling of human and animal pathogens. This does not reflect the spirit or the substance of Hampton principles and making changes here will also be of benefit to the industry in making the rules that they must work to clearer and more coherent.

I agree with the recommendation that DEFRA should not continue as regulator of laboratories handling animal pathogens because the report finds there was a conflict of interest. This was an area where I was particularly keen to have an independent view, as I felt that this was an issue that needed addressing. I acknowledge the comments that DEFRA's weaknesses as a regulator in this context were as a result of the regulatory system, rather than because of failings on the part of individual inspectors and because of the level of expertise within DEFRA and the resource allocated to this work.

I also note the report's comments that the primary responsibility for managing risks must lie with the top management of any facility where work on dangerous pathogens is carried out. Any regulatory system is only as good as the people being regulated. The regulator's role, whoever that regulator may be, is to provide assurance that the systems in place will deliver the desired objective.

The UK has a very important science base, which has built an enviable international reputation. The research carried out in this country including at Pirbright, plays an important part, not only in supporting our response to disease outbreaks, but also in the international fight against existing and emerging diseases. This position inevitably means that there is a need to handle dangerous pathogens in UK laboratories. The public, farming community and others have a right to expect that all possible measures will be taken to protect them and the environment. That risk can never be zero, but as the report points out, the regulatory outcome we must seek to achieve is one that provides an assurance that the risk of accidental release is as close to zero as possible.

I am depositing copies of their report in the Libraries of both Houses today.

The report is also available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd/investigations/bill-callaghan.htm

I will keep the House informed of developments.

| *Recommendation* | *Government Response* |
|---|---|
| We recommend that consideration is given to extending the duty to co-operate in any new regulatory framework for handling dangerous pathogens. | Accept<br>The requirement for a duty to co-operate, between different occupiers on the same site, will be extended to all sites, including those which use animal pathogens, under the proposed single regulatory framework (stage 3). |
| We recommend that DEFRA, DH, HSE and other interested parties work together to develop a single regulatory framework to govern work with human and animal pathogens | Accept<br>DEFRA agree that this is in keeping with the Hampton principles of inspection and enforcement, and is in line with Government policy to simplify regulation. Work has started to analyse how this will be taken forward. |
| We recommend that DEFRA, DH, HSE and other interested parties work towards the introduction of cost recovery in any new regulatory framework. | Accept<br>Government policy is to recover costs for services wherever possible. DEFRA will work with DH, HSE and other interested parties to recover costs in this area. |
| We recommend that risk assessment be a key element of the regulatory framework for handling animal pathogens, as it currently is for human pathogens and genetically modified organisms | Accept<br>The containment level currently sets the main risk level. Under phase 3 of the proposed approach to the changes, Risk Assessment will be the fundamental principle that governs the new single regulatory framework. We acknowledge that it puts an onus on the person applying to do work to make a full assessment of the risks and present to the regulator any mitigation measures. This would also provide flexibility to reconsider the risk assessment as new evidence or other factors emerge. |
| We recommend that ACDP be tasked with formulating a common set of containment measures to apply to both animal and human pathogens. | Accept<br>DEFRA agree that there should be one set of guidance as the overriding priority is containment of dangerous pathogens, whether animal or human. |
| We recommend that the regulator under the single regulatory framework be given discretion to agree with operators departures from the containment measures drawn up by ACDP, on the basis of risk assessments. | Accept<br>We acknowledge that it is not always appropriate for all measures that apply to work with human pathogens to apply to those sites solely working with animal pathogens. |
| We recommend that there be a single independent regulator for both animal and human pathogens, with the resources, expertise and legal powers to carry out its function effectively. | Accept<br>DEFRA agree that this will give greater clarity, and better regulation and enforcement. |
| We recommend that HSE become the single regulatory body for both animal and human pathogens. | Accept<br>Although there are other Agencies which could be considered, DEFRA believes that HSE has the expertise and critical mass and since it works in the related field, is the most appropriate body to take this on.<br>HSE have accepted in principle, and are in discussions with DEFRA. |
| We recommend a phased approach to these changes. | Accept<br>DEFRA agrees with the principle of the phased approach. |

| *Recommendation* | *Government Response* |
|---|---|
| We envisage that the regulatory role will ultimately pass to HSE. In the interim we recommend that inspections under SAPO continue to be conducted by DEFRA, but with support from HSE. We recommend that DEFRA enter into immediate discussions with HSE to formalise HSE's support of SAPO inspections by 1 January 2008. | Accept<br>DEFRA are already conducting joint inspections with HSE and are in discussions with HSE about the proposed changes. |
| We recommend that the ACDP is asked to begin work now on drawing up guidance on a single set of containment requirements for human and animal pathogens, to complement the single regulatory framework when it is introduced. | Accept<br>We will ask ACDP to do this. |
| We recommend that changes be made to the SAPO, by April 2008, to designate HSE as the inspection and enforcement body. | Accept<br>DEFRA will discuss with HSE and aim to make changes to SAPO as rapidly as possible, in line with best practice for introducing new statutory instruments. We have already started considering legal issues. DEFRA and HSE lawyers are working together to effect these changes within the shortest possible legislative timetable. |
| We recommend that DEFRA, DH, HSE and other interested parties begin work urgently with a view to bringing in the single regulatory framework before the end of 2008. | Accept<br>HSE will lead in putting this in place, working with DEFRA, DH, and other parties. |

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### The British Council in Russia

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The Russian authorities announced yesterday that they planned to shut down the British Council's offices in St Petersburg and Yekaterinburg on 1 January 2008.

Russia's threatened actions are illegal. The British Council's presence in Russia is entirely consistent with international law, including the Vienna Conventions. Its presence and activities are also specifically sanctioned by a 1994 UK/Russia Agreement on Co-operation in Education, Science and Culture, signed by Russia, and which binds both the UK and Russia. The British Council is the designated agent of the British Government for the implementation of the agreement. For the past nine years, the UK has been keen to conclude a further Cultural Centres Agreement with Russia. Pending such an agreement being reached, the 1994 Agreement remains in force.

For Russia to carry out its threat would therefore constitute a serious attack against the legitimate cultural agent of the British Government, would show a disregard for the rule of law and would only damage Russia's reputation around the world.

Damage will also be done to EU-Russia cultural co-operation. We are discussing with partners (including the EU and the G7), the implications of Russia's threat. I am grateful to the European Commission for expressing its concern to Russia about the situation facing the British Council.

Overall, Russia's threats set back bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve cultural links, severely affect large numbers of Russians who benefit from the British Council's presence, and damage Russia's reputation around the world. We are urging the Russian authorities to reconsider. At the same time we are working closely with the British Council to ensure the welfare of their staff.

I will keep the House informed of developments.

### Guantanamo Bay

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The House will be aware that, with the agreement of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, I wrote to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on 7 August to request the release from Guantanamo Bay and return to the UK of five men who, while not UK Nationals, had been legally resident in the UK prior to their detention. These are the only individuals now at Guantanamo who have been identified as having been given leave to enter or remain in the UK under the Immigration Acts.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and I decided to seek the release of the five in light of work by the US Government to reduce the number of those detained at Guantanamo and our wish to offer practical and concrete support to those efforts. In reaching this decision we gave full consideration to the need to maintain national security and the Government's overriding responsibilities in this regard.

Detailed and constructive discussions have since taken place between the British and US Governments, considering the circumstances of each individual case. The US agreed on 10 December that three of the five men—Mr. Jamil El Banna, Mr. Omar Deghayes and Mr. Abdennour Sameur—will be returned to the UK shortly as soon as the practical arrangements can be made. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been in contact with the families and legal representatives of Mr. El Banna, Mr. Deghayes and Mr. Sameur to let them know of this decision.

I should add that the decision to make this request does not constitute a commitment that they may remain permanently in the UK. Their immigration status will be reviewed following their return and the same security considerations will apply to them as would apply to any other foreign national in this country. As always, all appropriate steps will be taken to protect national security.

The US Government has expressed significant additional security concerns in regard to the cases of the other two men covered by the original request—Mr. Shaker Aamer and Mr. Binyam Mohammed. They have so far declined the request for the release and return of Mr. Aamer and we are no longer in active discussions regarding his transfer to the UK. We are still discussing with the US the case of Mr. Mohammed although again the US Government is not inclined to agree to his release and return.

Moving ahead, we will continue to discuss with the US Government how best we can work with them to see the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. We will continue to encourage our allies to consider taking steps similar to our own to reduce the numbers of those detained at Guantanamo Bay, such as accepting the transfer of eligible detainees, thereby hastening the closure of the detention facility.

### Russia (Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The Government regret the unilateral decision by the Russian Federation to cease compliance with its obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CPE) from 12 December. Russia has sought to explain this decision principally on the grounds that members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have not ratified the adapted version of the CFE treaty. Together with our NATO allies, the United Kingdom has made a public statement (http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2007/p07-139e.html).

This Russian decision is unjustified. The United Kingdom, along with NATO allies, has made clear our commitment to ratify as quickly as possible the adaptation of the CFE treaty, which would provide the basis for addressing most of Russia's concerns about the current CFE regime. But it remains right that Russia should in parallel honour its own commitments, made at the 1999 Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe summit in Istanbul, to regularise the status of its forces and equipment in Georgia and Moldova. The principle that host nation consent is required for the stationing of foreign forces is central to effective security and stability in Europe. NATO has engaged intensively with the Russian Federation to seek ways of overcoming differences over how to ensure both these sets of commitments are delivered.

The Government also consider that the Russian Federation's "suspension" of their obligations cannot be justified either under the provisions of the CFE Treaty or on the grounds set out in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Accordingly, on 11 December, we sent a Note Verbale, via the Treaty Depository, to all CFE States Parties, making this clear.

We judge, however, that European security is not fundamentally or immediately threatened by this Russian action. In the short term, we understand Russia will stop exchanging data or sending notifications on the whereabouts and composition of its conventional forces, and will refuse to allow verification inspections. However, if Russia were to persist in this course of action, in the longer-term that would erode the transparency and predictability which the CFE regime contributes to overall stability in Europe.

To help maintain that stability, the United Kingdom will until further notice, along with its NATO allies, continue to honour all our obligations under the CFE Treaty, including towards the Russian Federation. We will assess the impact of any non-compliance by the Russian Federation, and consult with NATO allies on a further joint response. With NATO allies, we will also continue to promote engagement with the Russian Federation with a view to reaching an agreed way forward.

## HEALTH

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 5 and 6 December 2007. The health part was held on the 6 December. I represented the UK.

The Council adopted conclusions on the Portuguese presidency theme of health and migration in the European Union. In a policy debate, Ministers discussed the challenges and opportunities in health presented by migration.

Ministers welcomed the Commission's EU health strategy, on which council conclusions were adopted. There was agreement that the EU strategy needed to complement national strategies, and that sudsidiarity must be respected. I highlighted the importance of tackling health inequalities.

Conclusions were also adopted on organ donation and transplantation and on nutrition and obesity responding to Commission communications on these subjects, and the presidency presented a progress report highlighting recent activities on the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Over lunch there was an informal discussion on health services, on which Commission proposals are expected shortly. Ministers urged caution: it was important to avoid creating inequalities through a system that allowed a few to shop around for care. The proposals should not go further than the ECJ jurisprudence, and member states should be able to use prior authorisation systems for hospital care.

Slovenia outlined their priorities in health for the forthcoming Slovene presidency. Cancer would be their main priority. They would also be taking forward work on anti-microbial resistance, and highlighting the implementation of policies to tackle alcohol-related harm and co-operation in the area of pricing and reimbursement of pharmaceuticals.

### PCTs and the NHS Operating Framework

**The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson):** I am pleased to announce today the 2008-09 revenue allocations for primary care trusts (PCTs) and the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09.

All primary care trusts will receive a cash increase of 5.5 per cent., a total cash increase of £3.8 billion, bringing the total revenue allocations to £74 billion. In addition, £1.7 billion of non-recurrent budgets are also being issued, meaning that 82 per cent. of the total NHS revenue budget will be issued direct to primary care trusts compared to 72 per cent. in 1996-97. Overall, we have trebled investment in the NHS from £35 billion to £110 billion by 2010-11.

I am keen to continue to raise the transparency and accountability of the NHS and, consequently, I have written individually to all hon. Members in England detailing their relevant PCTs' allocations for 2008-09 and have noted how their current allocations compare to those for 2007-08. I have also included with this written statement a table detailing 2008-09 PCT allocations.

As I announced on 22 November, the revenue allocations will be for 2008-09 only, as the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) has asked for additional time to finish their review of the current resource allocation formula. ACRA will complete their work shortly and we intend to announce allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 by summer 2008.

As the House will recognise, the NHS has made substantial progress over the past 10 years on investment and reform. Patients wait no more than four hours in accident and emergency, the health service has more doctors and nurses than ever before; and we have witnessed the largest hospital building programme since the NHS was founded.

As the NHS enters its 60th year, we must continue to drive forward with ever-greater determination, and so for the year ahead, the NHS has five principal priorities:

first, improving standards of cleanliness and tackling healthcare-associated infections;

secondly, improving access to care through the achievement of the 18-week referral to treatment pledge and improving access to GP services, including at evenings and weekends;

thirdly, keeping adults and children well, improving their health and reducing inequalities, by focusing on improving care for cancer and stroke, and paying particular attention to children's health, particularly in the most deprived areas of the country;

fourthly, improving patient experience, staff satisfaction and engagement; and

fifthly, preparing to respond in a state of emergency, such as an outbreak of pandemic influenza.

In addition to the national priorities, PCTs need to continue to improve at understanding the particular needs of their local populations and take concrete steps to address them. In order to meet their own local needs, PCTs will need to work in step with local government through local area agreements that focus on improving health and well-being.

Local priorities will build on evidence about current PCT performance and regional variation, and also plan for the future by incorporating work being done in local service reviews. Whether it is reducing mixed sex accommodation, personalising services for patients with learning disabilities or responding to the Healthcare Commission's recommendations, local services need to respond to local needs.

Over the last 18 months, the NHS has continued to drive up the quality of care delivered to patients. This has been made possible by two significant achievements:

bringing the NHS to financial balance and going on to deliver a surplus; and

embedding patient choice, practice based commissioning, payment by results and foundation trusts, which all lead to better patient care.

In order to support this year's NHS Operating Framework, we must continue to develop the necessary structures and leadership in order to enable world class commissioning.

The NHS must meet the needs of its patients and their families, the expectations of the public and the aspirations of its staff. At all times, the NHS must be safe, effective, personalised and fair. The more responsive and personalised the NHS gets, the better the care it will provide and the more confidence the health service will inspire.

*2008-09 PCT Recurrent Revenue Allocations*

| *PCT* | *2007-08 Recurrent Allocation £'000s* | *2008-09 Recurrent Increase £'000s* | *2008-09 Recurrent Allocation £'000s* |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East | | | |
| County Durham PCT | 784,201 | 42,833 | 827,034 |
| Darlington PCT | 147,509 | 8,057 | 155,566 |
| Gateshead PCT | 313,317 | 17,113 | 330,431 |
| Hartlepool PCT | 144,243 | 7,879 | 152,122 |
| Middlesbrough PCT | 228,340 | 12,472 | 240,812 |
| Newcastle PCT | 417,413 | 22,799 | 440,212 |
| North Tees PCT | 253,743 | 13,859 | 267,603 |
| North Tyneside PCT | 298,390 | 16,298 | 314,688 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 434,542 | 23,735 | 458,277 |
| Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 206,163 | 11,261 | 217,424 |
| South Tyneside PCT | 243,791 | 13,316 | 257,107 |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT | 449,010 | 24,525 | 473,535 |
| North West | | | |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 449,115 | 24,531 | 473,646 |
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 227,152 | 12,407 | 239,559 |
| Blackpool PCT | 232,537 | 12,701 | 245,239 |
| Bolton PCT | 388,481 | 21,219 | 409,700 |
| Bury PCT | 247,864 | 13,538 | 261,403 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 571,132 | 31,195 | 602,327 |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 607,500 | 33,182 | 640,682 |
| Cumbria PCT | 689,160 | 37,642 | 726,801 |
| East Lancashire PCT | 553,338 | 30,223 | 583,561 |
| Halton and St Helens PCT | 474,176 | 25,899 | 500,076 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 316,327 | 17,278 | 333,605 |
| Knowsley PCT | 268,697 | 14,676 | 283,374 |
| Liverpool PCT | 803,354 | 43,879 | 847,234 |
| Manchester PCT | 815,430 | 44,539 | 859,969 |
| North Lancashire PCT | 456,349 | 24,926 | 481,275 |
| Oldham PCT | 332,588 | 18,166 | 350,754 |
| Salford PCT | 374,615 | 20,461 | 395,076 |
| Sefton PCT | 424,393 | 23,180 | 447,574 |
| Stockport PCT | 379,343 | 20,720 | 400,063 |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 337,310 | 18,424 | 355,733 |
| Trafford PCT | 299,535 | 16,361 | 315,896 |
| Warrington PCT | 259,050 | 14,149 | 273,199 |
| Western Cheshire PCT | 332,116 | 18,140 | 350,256 |
| Wirral PCT | 500,617 | 27,344 | 527,960 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | | | |
| Barnsley PCT | 353,531 | 19,310 | 372,841 |
| Bradford and Airedale PCT | 713,986 | 38,998 | 752,984 |

*2008-09 PCT Recurrent Revenue Allocations*

| PCT | 2007-08 Recurrent Allocation £'000s | 2008-09 Recurrent Increase £'000s | 2008-09 Recurrent Allocation £'000s |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calderdale PCT | 275,396 | 15,042 | 290,438 |
| Doncaster PCT | 439,103 | 23,984 | 463,087 |
| East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT | 380,204 | 20,767 | 400,971 |
| Hull PCT | 401,457 | 21,928 | 423,384 |
| Kirklees PCT | 527,512 | 28,813 | 556,324 |
| Leeds PCT | 1,032,366 | 56,388 | 1,088,754 |
| North East Lincolnshire PCT | 229,114 | 12,514 | 241,629 |
| North Lincolnshire PCT | 208,972 | 11,414 | 220,386 |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | 947,379 | 51,746 | 999,125 |
| Rotherham PCT | 361,022 | 19,719 | 380,741 |
| Sheffield PCT | 783,833 | 42,813 | 826,646 |
| Wakefield District PCT | 489,186 | 26,719 | 515,905 |
| East Midlands | | | |
| Bassetlaw PCT | 144,874 | 7,913 | 152,787 |
| Derby City PCT | 361,115 | 19,724 | 380,839 |
| Derbyshire County PCT | 922,913 | 50,410 | 973,323 |
| Leicester City PCT | 424,964 | 23,212 | 448,176 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 730,485 | 39,899 | 770,384 |
| Lincolnshire PCT | 922,602 | 50,393 | 972,995 |
| Northamptonshire PCT | 817,249 | 44,638 | 861,887 |
| Nottingham City PCT | 430,928 | 23,537 | 454,466 |
| Nottinghamshire County PCT | 839,335 | 45,844 | 885,179 |
| West Midlands | | | |
| Birmingham East and North PCT | 606,916 | 33,150 | 640,065 |
| Coventry Teaching PCT | 469,451 | 25,641 | 495,092 |
| Dudley PCT | 407,037 | 22,232 | 429,270 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 454,255 | 24,811 | 479,066 |
| Herefordshire PCT | 226,439 | 12,368 | 238,807 |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 278,040 | 15,187 | 293,227 |
| Sandwell PCT | 461,941 | 25,231 | 487,172 |
| Shropshire County PCT | 363,336 | 19,845 | 383,181 |
| Solihull Care Trust | 259,370 | 14,167 | 273,537 |
| South Birmingham PCT | 510,764 | 27,898 | 538,661 |
| South Staffordshire PCT | 716,139 | 39,115 | 755,254 |
| Stoke On Trent PCT | 392,763 | 21,453 | 414,216 |
| Telford and Wrekin PCT | 209,334 | 11,434 | 220,768 |
| Walsall Teaching PCT | 374,066 | 20,431 | 394,497 |
| Warwickshire PCT | 652,206 | 35,624 | 687,830 |
| Wolverhampton City PCT | 360,656 | 19,699 | 380,355 |
| Worcestershire PCT | 679,281 | 37,102 | 716,383 |
| East of England | | | |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 483,955 | 26,434 | 510,388 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 685,883 | 37,463 | 723,346 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 667,728 | 36,471 | 704,199 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 319,752 | 17,465 | 337,217 |
| Luton PCT | 247,703 | 13,530 | 261,233 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 405,722 | 22,161 | 427,883 |
| Norfolk PCT | 932,449 | 50,930 | 983,379 |
| North East Essex PCT | 422,921 | 23,100 | 446,020 |
| Peterborough PCT | 226,047 | 12,347 | 238,393 |
| South East Essex PCT | 441,775 | 24,130 | 465,904 |
| South West Essex PCT | 525,622 | 28,709 | 554,331 |
| Suffolk PCT | 726,691 | 39,692 | 766,383 |
| West Essex PCT | 340,399 | 18,593 | 358,991 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 679,655 | 37,123 | 716,778 |
| London | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 267,023 | 14,585 | 281,607 |
| Barnet PCT | 460,640 | 25,160 | 485,800 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 281,904 | 15,398 | 297,301 |
| Brent Teaching PCT | 440,836 | 24,078 | 464,915 |
| Bromley PCT | 403,632 | 22,046 | 425,678 |
| Camden PCT | 398,848 | 21,785 | 420,633 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 416,671 | 22,759 | 439,429 |
| Croydon PCT | 458,633 | 25,051 | 483,683 |
| Ealing PCT | 481,157 | 26,281 | 507,438 |
| Enfield PCT | 384,190 | 20,984 | 405,175 |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 372,379 | 20,339 | 392,719 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 286,377 | 15,642 | 302,019 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 375,205 | 20,494 | 395,698 |
| Harrow PCT | 276,176 | 15,085 | 291,261 |
| Havering PCT | 331,028 | 18,081 | 349,109 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 333,169 | 18,198 | 351,367 |
| Hounslow PCT | 322,634 | 17,622 | 340,256 |
| Islington PCT | 363,928 | 19,878 | 383,806 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 297,613 | 16,256 | 313,868 |
| Kingston PCT | 219,238 | 11,975 | 231,213 |
| Lambeth PCT | 505,097 | 27,588 | 532,686 |
| Lewisham PCT | 429,633 | 23,467 | 453,100 |
| Newham PCT | 454,046 | 24,800 | 478,846 |
| Redbridge PCT | 317,506 | 17,342 | 334,848 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 242,789 | 13,261 | 256,050 |
| Southwark PCT | 433,721 | 23,690 | 457,410 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | 497,211 | 27,158 | 524,369 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 395,521 | 21,603 | 417,125 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | 347,335 | 18,971 | 366,306 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 420,027 | 22,942 | 442,968 |
| Westminster PCT | 396,902 | 21,679 | 418,581 |
| South East Coast | | | |
| Brighton and Hove City PCT | 381,965 | 20,863 | 402,828 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 458,443 | 25,040 | 483,483 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 1,013,331 | 55,348 | 1,068,679 |
| Hastings and Rother PCT | 270,154 | 14,756 | 284,910 |
| Medway PCT | 340,701 | 18,609 | 359,310 |
| Surrey PCT | 1,335,260 | 72,932 | 1,408,192 |
| West Kent PCT | 810,316 | 44,259 | 854,576 |
| West Sussex PCT | 1,034,023 | 56,478 | 1,090,501 |
| South Central | | | |
| Berkshire East PCT | 467,641 | 25,543 | 493,184 |
| Berkshire West PCT | 521,310 | 28,474 | 549,784 |
| Buckinghamshire PCT | 573,490 | 31,324 | 604,814 |
| Hampshire PCT | 1,531,884 | 83,671 | 1,615,555 |
| Isle of Wight NHS PCT | 204,994 | 11,197 | 216,191 |
| Milton Keynes PCT | 277,919 | 15,180 | 293,098 |
| Oxfordshire PCT | 727,498 | 39,736 | 767,234 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 253,929 | 13,870 | 267,799 |
| Southampton City PCT | 323,249 | 17,656 | 340,905 |

*2008-09 PCT Recurrent Revenue Allocations*

| *PCT* | *2007-08 Recurrent Allocation £'000s* | *2008-09 Recurrent Increase £'000s* | *2008-09 Recurrent Allocation £'000s* |
|---|---|---|---|
| South West | | | |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 224,569 | 12,266 | 236,835 |
| Bournemouth and Poole PCT | 455,410 | 24,874 | 480,284 |
| Bristol PCT | 571,181 | 31,198 | 602,379 |
| Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT | 710,827 | 38,825 | 749,652 |
| Devon PCT | 956,903 | 52,266 | 1,009,169 |
| Dorset PCT | 512,900 | 28,015 | 540,915 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 731,208 | 39,939 | 771,146 |
| North Somerset PCT | 251,427 | 13,733 | 265,159 |
| Plymouth Teaching PCT | 348,433 | 19,031 | 367,464 |
| Somerset PCT | 661,858 | 36,151 | 698,008 |
| South Gloucestershire PCT | 275,190 | 15,031 | 290,221 |
| Swindon PCT | 243,943 | 13,324 | 257,267 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 207,397 | 11,328 | 218,725 |
| Wiltshire PCT | 539,616 | 29,474 | 569,089 |
| *England* | *70,354,697* | *3,842,774* | *74,197,471* |

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** I am pleased to inform the House that I have today placed in the Library the annual report of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate for the year 2006. This is the third annual report published by the Inspectorate.

Publication of the report honours a commitment given by the Government in response to a recommendation of the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures in July 2002 that more information should be made available about the work of inspectorate.

The inspectorate's third annual report published today explains what the inspectors do and how they do it, and provides details of the inspectorate's staffing and structure, ways of working, professional background and skills, and training and development.

The report explains the inspectorate's role in assessing, and advising Home Office Ministers and officials on, applications for personal and project licences and certificates of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. It also provides details of the inspection system, through which compliance with licence authorities granted under the 1986 Act is monitored and about visiting patterns and practice and the number of visits carried out during the year.

The report explains the important role of inspectors in gathering and transmitting information on good practice and provides examples of the many events and initiatives to which the inspectorate made significant contributions during the year. In addition, this year's report contains special features on scientific work conducted outside the laboratory setting and on poultry and also contains a report on a survey of local ethical review processes.

I commend the report to the attention of Members.

## JUSTICE

### Advisory Committee on Civil Costs

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** In September I announced that I was establishing an Advisory Committee on Civil Costs and that its chair would be Professor Stephen Nickell. I undertook to make a further announcement on the membership of the Committee and its programme of work.

The members of the Committee are Steve Brooker (National Consumer Council), Dominic Claydon (representing Association of British Insurers), Senior Costs Judge Peter Hurst, Professor Simon Roberts, District Judge Monty Trent and Fraser Whitehead (representing the Law Society). Additional members may be co-opted on to the Committee for specific issues, if appropriate. The Committee will commission research, collect data and receive submissions as required from a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that recommendations are evidence based and underpinned by economic analysis.

The first thing that I have asked the Committee to do is to provide advice to the Master of the Rolls on the guideline hourly rates for solicitors for the summary assessment of costs. The Committee will then consider any fixed recoverable costs proposed following our consultation: "The case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims". It will subsequently review the fast track trial costs. I will then make further decisions on the future programme of work. The Ministry of Justice will fund the Committee and provide the secretariat.

### Young Black People in the Criminal Justice System

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** I am today announcing the publication of detailed operating proposals to deliver the commitments made in the Government response to the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into young black people and the criminal justice system. Details of these arrangements are contained in an action plan, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. The details will also be published on the Ministry of Justice website.

The Government responded to the Committee's report on 18 October 2007 (Cm 7214), and committed to publishing detailed operating proposals for delivery of the commitments made in the main response. This statement summarises the governance structure and reporting arrangements that will drive and support delivery and enable Government to monitor and report progress on reducing the over-representation of young black people in the criminal justice system.

*Ministerial Champion*

I will act as the ministerial champion for this work.

*Ministerial Leadership*

The National Criminal Justice Board (NCJB) will provide ministerial stewardship and oversight of delivery of the action plan, reporting to the domestic affairs sub-committee on justice and crime as appropriate. Delivery of the commitments made and the associated work programme will be monitored, driven and reported through the Public Service Agreement (PSA) framework and existing departmental reporting arrangements. There will also be additional annual progress reports.

*Official Leadership*

The chief executive of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is nominated the senior responsible owner for this work programme. Oversight at a senior official level will be provided by existing cross-Government groups with a specific focus on race issues.

*External Advisory Function*

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission will provide independent scrutiny and challenge functions for this work programme. In addition, a series of structured engagement events involving key commentators and community workers will be undertaken on a quarterly basis to draw on the knowledge and expertise of a wider group of individuals and organisations.

### Freedom of Information Act

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills):** Today I have deposited copies of the *Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Statistics on Implementation in Central Government. Q3 - July - September 2007* in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the quarterly monitoring statistics report analysing the performance of central Government in the third full year of Freedom of Information.

### Preventing Deaths in Custody

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle):** Earlier this year, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Bradford South (Mr Sutcliffe), outlined the Government's intention to review the forum for preventing deaths in custody as one aspect of its continued commitment to bring about real changes and improvements to reduce deaths of people being held in our custodial care, and to report on progress to the house within six months (*Official Report*, 16 May 2007, Column 662).

I am pleased to report that the Government's review of the forum is nearing its conclusion. A person entirely independent of the forum—Robert Fulton, a former Home Office director—is conducting the review and Ministers anticipate that he will deliver conclusions and recommendations by the end of the year. A further announcement will be made as soon as is practicable once Ministers—including those in the Home Office and Health with responsibilities for the custodial sector beyond prisons—have considered and decided upon these recommendations. The review has broad terms of reference and is taking account of other relevant organisational models; the forum's independence from Government; its interaction with Ministers through the ministerial round table on suicide (which I chair); its membership, powers, resources and capacity; and the forum's collective and individual accountabilities.

The review is making good progress. Mr Fulton, whose conclusions and recommendations will be made publicly available, has already seen a wide range of people with a close interest in this subject area and researched other relevant organisational models. I understand that he is likely to recommend substantial changes to the current arrangements with respect both to the forum and to the ministerial round table on suicide. Ministers will look at Mr Fulton's recommendations quickly and sympathetically, with a view to strengthening the current arrangements within available resources.

## SCOTLAND

### Scottish Parliament (Elections)

**The Secretary of State for Scotland (Des Browne):** I am launching today a consultation exercise on proposals and recommendations arising from the Electoral Commission review, led by the independent expert Mr. Ron Gould, into the conduct of elections to the Scottish Parliament in May 2007. In my oral statement to the House on 23 October, when Mr. Gould published his report, I accepted immediately the five core recommendations which taken together will have a direct beneficial impact on the experience of voters at future elections to the Scottish Parliament.

I confirmed to the House in my October statement that a number of other recommendations in the report would require wide ranging consultation with outside interests, including those responsible for the administrative conduct of elections in Scotland. At the same time, I stressed the importance of engaging with voters in these matters and will be seeking through the consultation exercise to reach as many as possible by both formal and informal means.

The paper is being sent direct to all MPs with Scottish constituencies and copies have been placed in the Library of both Houses. I hope as many hon. Members as possible will take the opportunity to let me have views on the points raised for consultation as well as any other relevant comment on ways of improving, particularly for the voter, these elections.

The consultation exercise will run to early March 2008 and I hope to publish a formal response to the Gould report, taking full account of views submitted during the consultation process, shortly thereafter.

The Gould report made also a number of proposals relevant to the conduct of local authority elections in Scotland. These are a matter for the Scottish Executive to determine.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 5 December in Brussels. I represented the UK, except for the items on the working time directive and the agency workers directive where the UK was represented by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Health, and consumer affairs issues were taken on 6 December.

The Council failed to reach an agreement on the worker mobility directive on supplementary pensions. The area of concern for other delegations was the maximum length of the period before a worker's pension rights become unconditional. This will be taken forward by a future presidency.

There was also no agreement on the working time or temporary workers directives. The prospects for moving forward on these were discussed over lunch. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State said the current working time text was a significant improvement on previous versions and whilst the UK still had some reservations, he believed that agreement was close. On agency workers, the presidency concluded—and member states agreed—that the text needed more work. The UK made it clear that it stood ready to support the presidency in future work to address outstanding issues.

The European Commission said it would consider withdrawing both directives but this suggestion was opposed by most member states including the UK. The presidency concluded that progress had been made but further in-depth discussion was needed on both directives, with the aim of an early and broad consensus.

Agreement was reached on parts of an implementing regulation for social security co-ordination Regulation 883/04, specifically on the chapters covering administration of unemployment and family benefits and the corresponding parts of an annex to the regulation.

The Council had a policy debate based on the recent Commission communication on services of general interest. I stressed, as did the majority of others that social services were important, both to individuals and more widely, and that quality was crucial. I also emphasised the need for subsidiarity and local and flexible delivery. While there was some common ground, the debate identified great diversity of situation and approach within and between member states and Ministers stressed the need for subsidiarity and exchange of experience and best practice. It was concluded that further work was needed in this area.

The Council adopted conclusions on flexicurity and endorsed a joint opinion of the Employment and Social Protection Committees on the subject. The Council also adopted conclusions and endorsed an Employment Committee opinion on future prospects for the European employment strategy in the context of the new cycle of the Lisbon strategy. The Council also adopted conclusions on active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market, women and poverty as part of the Beijing platform and on balanced roles for women and men as well as a resolution on follow-up to this year's European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

Slovenia outlined their priorities on employment and social policy for their forthcoming presidency starting in January, which will include "Employment of the Young", "Equal Opportunities" and "Demography" as their three key presidency themes.

## Disability Benefits (European Court of Justice)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire):** I notified the House on 23 October that the European Court of Justice has decided that for the purposes of European Law, three benefits—Disability Living Allowance (care component), Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance—are incorrectly classified as special non-contributory benefits.

As a result of the judgment, these benefits are, in certain circumstances, exportable within the European Economic Area (EAA) and Switzerland. Customers will, of course, have to meet existing entitlement criteria to receive the benefits. Department officials met recently with officials from the European Commission to clarify the extent of the Government's responsibilities following this judgment and discussions are continuing on this complex area of European legislation.

The Disability and Carers Service is currently preparing new guidance for staff and making arrangements to handle cases from abroad. In particular proper controls must be put in place to gather medical evidence from abroad to ensure that UK decision-makers are properly able to assess claims. We expect to provide full details on eligibility criteria on: www.direct.gov.uk by 5 April 2008. We anticipate that first payments could be made to eligible claimants shortly afterwards.

## Ready for Work

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain):** Today I am publishing "Ready for work: full employment in our generation", the Government's response to the Green Paper on welfare reform published in July 2007.

"Ready for work" sets out the strategy to create a society in which as many people as possible can share in the rewards of work—rewards that go far beyond financial independence, important as that is, because work is inherently good for people of all ages: good for their health, good for families and good for communities.

Today Britain is recognised by the international community as a leader in promoting employment and tackling disadvantage in the labour market. However, there are still too many people living on benefits who could work if they were given the right support.

Our response will be to move to a new system of active rather than passive benefits.

We want to see an employment rate of 80 per cent., up from the current baseline of 74.5 per cent., putting full employment at the heart of our anti-poverty strategy and enabling Britain to seize the opportunities afforded by a dynamic global economy.

In a new and radical approach, we will therefore increasingly look to move people from being spectators on the margins isolated at home—as recipients of passive benefits—to becoming participants, actively seeking and preparing for work with access to training and job-focused activity.

And we want to ensure that benefit claimants can train and improve their skills so that they are not only helped into jobs but also helped to stay and progress in work.

Currently benefit rules prevent JSA customers from studying full time for more than 16 hours per week, for more than two weeks per year. We will reform this. As I announced in November we will put in place the funding arrangements to ensure that JSA customers who would benefit from longer term, full time intensive and employment focused training would have the opportunity to do so by moving to a training allowance.

We will also remove the '16-hour rule' in housing benefit completely for short-term recipients of incapacity benefit so that they, like long-term claimants, will always be able to take up training to enable them to return to work.

Lone parents who can work will be required to actively seek work once their youngest child is 12 or over from October 2008, 10 or over from 2009 and seven or over from 2010, supported by a flexible system of pre-work preparation and in-work support, and by the £21 billion we have invested in childcare since 1997.

Incapacity benefits for new claimants will go, replaced by employment and support allowance with the emphasis on what a person with a physical or mental health condition can do rather than cannot.

The new deal will be modernised so that it better meets the employment and skills needs of those who have been on benefit for a long time or who have struggled to find a stable pattern of work.

Jobcentre Plus has built up a truly world class record, and will remain at the heart of the system—working in partnership with public, private and third sector specialist providers which will have an enhanced role through new contracting relationships which we will set out early next year. Jobcentre Plus will also work in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council and Devolved Administrations to deliver an integrated employment and skills service. And with employers, opening up more jobs to disadvantaged people through Local Employment Partnerships.

In an era of record employment and with 680,000 vacancies to fill, our aim is to get British benefit claimants into British jobs to become British workers.

And we will do more to ensure that the long term unemployed, lone parents and those currently on incapacity benefit are better off in work even after reasonable transport costs.

The reforms that we are bringing in have a central goal: work for those who can, support for those who cannot, combating poverty through full employment.

That remains our welfare commitment and that is our way forward.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 17 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### Capital Allowances (Draft Legislation)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy):** The Government announced a major package of reforms to the business tax system in Budget 2007. These reforms will enhance the international competitiveness of the UK, by encouraging investment, promoting innovation and ensuring fairness across the tax system.

The package announced a reduction in the main rate of corporation tax to 28 per cent. from 2008, making it the lowest in the G7 and below the OECD and EU15 average. It included reforms to deliver a simpler, two-rate system of capital allowances, to ensure the tax system better reflects the economic depreciation of capital assets. The package also included the introduction of a new annual investment allowance of £50,000 for all businesses, to promote investment particularly by smaller firms. This will allow 95 per cent. of businesses to write off all of their investment (excluding expenditure on cars) in the year in which it is made.

In July, the Government published "Business Tax Reform: Capital Allowances Changes", a consultation on the Government's proposals for the key design features of the new annual investment allowance, new rules on integral building features and the transitional rules for the move to the new rates of capital allowances.

The Government are today publishing a technical note including draft legislation on these changes, reflecting the support of the majority of respondents to this consultation for the Government's proposals. As a result of the changes, the Government estimate that the administrative burden of the capital allowances system on business will be reduced by £15 million.

This technical note announces the Government's intention to extend the provision that allows capital allowances to be claimed on thermal insulation added to existing industrial buildings to all commercial buildings, at a rate of 10 per cent., in line with the Government's approach to environmentally beneficial features integral to buildings.

The Government also intend to withdraw the special industrial buildings allowances available in Enterprise Zones (EZAs) from April 2011, to coincide with the withdrawal of industrial buildings allowance. The Government consider that these allowances have now served their purpose, and that there is no case for retaining them. No business that has already claimed EZAs will be affected by this.

The publication of the draft legislation marks a significant milestone in the implementation of this major series of reforms, which will enable the UK's tax system to encourage businesses to invest for the future.

Copies of the technical note and draft legislation have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

### ECOFIN

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held on 4 December in Brussels. The items on the agenda were as follows:

*Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact:*

The Council agreed that Poland had met the 27 August 2007 deadline to correct its excessive deficit procedure, as its 2007 deficit is expected to be below 3 per cent. of GDP. The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) which takes into account the level of debt, the influence of the cycle and the level of public investment.

*Lisbon multilateral surveillance:*

Ministers agreed draft conclusions on the multilateral surveillance element of the Lisbon strategy national reform programmes. The Council discussed progress on innovation and SMEs, better regulation, competition, and labour markets. Ministers agreed that it was important to maintain the momentum behind reform. The UK welcomes multilateral surveillance under the Lisbon strategy, which encourages member states to focus on the implementation of the Lisbon strategy.

*Globalisation: capital and labour flows:*

Ministers prepared a contribution to the December European Council of 14 December on the economic dimension of migration. This follows from an exchange of views at November ECOFIN on the basis of a report on the economic impact of migration prepared by the European Commission. Ministers agreed that the economic and fiscal policy dimension of migration is important in the broader analysis of the issue.

*Financial services:*

*a) Lamfalussy review*

Ministers agreed a set of Council conclusions on the review of the Lamfalussy arrangements, and a roadmap for taking these forward. The UK believes the Lamfalussy framework has made a major contribution to improving the efficiency of the EU legislative process and enhancing the convergence of supervisory practices. The UK argued against proposals that could lead to moves towards a single European regulator and welcomed the Council conclusions and the roadmap, which should further develop supervisory co-operation and convergence.

*b) Directive on the solvency of insurance companies (Solvency II)*

Ministers discussed the proposed Solvency II directive on the prudential requirements for insurance and reinsurance companies. Ministers agreed on the need for further work on provisions in the directive dealing with group supervision. The UK supports work that will ensure more effective supervision of pan-European insurance groups.

*c) Risk capital*

Ministers agreed Council conclusions on cross-border risk capital which invite the European Commission to carry out further work on identifying and removing obstacles to cross-border investments by venture capital funds. The UK supports work to break down the key remaining barriers to development of European venture capital markets.

*Taxation:*

*a) VAT package*

Following on from its discussion at its November meeting, the Council reached political agreement on a set of measures that will modernise the EU VAT rules for the cross border supply of services, with particular focus on proposed changes to the rules for business to consumer supplies in the telecoms, broadcasting and e-services sectors. In particular, the Council's political agreement was made possible by acceptance by all member states that such services should be taxed in the member state where the customer is located, rather than, as is presently the case, where the supplier is established. The UK has been a strong supporter of this package and welcomes the agreement.

*b) Reduced VAT rates*

*i) Commission communication on VAT rates other than the standard rate*

Ministers agreed Council conclusions regarding future work on reduced VAT rates and noted the Commission's plans to present a legislative proposal on reduced VAT rates in 2008. The UK supports flexibility in applying reduced VAT rates where these will not materially affect the single market.

*ii) Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 2006/112/EEC with regard to certain temporary provisions concerning rates of VAT.*

Ministers then discussed a Commission proposal to extend until 2010 some of the new member states' derogations for reduced VAT rates. Council agreed a general approach, pending the opinion of the European Parliament, on a new directive to this effect. The UK supports the extension of most of the temporary derogations granted to those member states that acceded to the European Union after 1 January 1995. The directive will be adopted without discussion at a forthcoming Council meeting, once the Parliament has submitted its opinion.

*c) Capital duty directive*

Ministers agreed a general approach, pending the opinion of the European Parliament, of a Commission proposal for a directive concerning indirect taxes on the raising of capital. The UK abolished capital duty in 1988.

*d) Combating tax fraud*

Ministers agreed conclusions which provide guidance to the Commission on the direction of further work to improve the effectiveness of the existing VAT system in combating tax fraud. The Council has called on the Commission to produce legislative proposals for debate in the early part of 2008 on measures previously identified as priorities by ECOFIN and for progress reports during 2008 on other work. The UK is strongly supportive of work that will help in the fight against Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) and other VAT fraud, while remaining committed to minimising the burdens on legitimate businesses.

*e) Code of conduct group (business taxation)*

Ministers discussed a forward workplan for the code of conduct group. The Council took note of a report from the group on its work under the Portuguese presidency and adopted conclusions on the future work of the group calling for all outstanding issues on its work programme to be resolved before the end of the Slovenian presidency. The code of conduct group is a ministerial group which looks to co-ordinate and share best practice on tax-related issues that are not directly covered by EU legislation. The UK is a strong supporter of the group.

## Public Service Pensions

**The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Andy Burnham):** Legislation governing public service pensions requires public service pensions to be increased annually by the same percentage as additional pensions (state earnings-related pension and state second pension). The Minister for Pensions Reform announced on 5 December 2007 (*Official Report*, column 841) that benefits such as additional pensions will be increased by 3.9 per cent., in line with the annual increase in the retail prices index up to September 2007. Public service pensions will therefore be increased by 3.9 per cent. from 7 April 2008, except those which have been in payment for less than a year, which will receive a pro-rata increase.

## Varney Review (Tax Policy in Northern Ireland)

**The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Andy Burnham):** Following representations by political parties in Northern Ireland, the Government commissioned Sir David Varney in March 2007 to carry out a review of tax policy in Northern Ireland. His terms of reference were to examine "how current and future tax policy, including the tax changes announced in the Budget 2007, can support the sustainable growth of businesses and long-term investment in Northern Ireland". The review has been published today and has been deposited in the Library of the House. I am very grateful to Sir David Varney and his team, and to all those who submitted evidence to the review. Sir David's report provides a valuable assessment not only of business tax issues for Northern Ireland but also of how the opportunities and challenges facing the devolved administration in developing an investment strategy might best be approached. The Government are fully committed to supporting the Northern Ireland Executive in implementing such a strategy.

The Government recognise that, in developing their economic investment strategy, the question of business tax levels in the UK is a particularly important issue for the executive. I am therefore particularly grateful to Sir David and his team for the considerable depth in which this issue is analysed and explored in the report.

He concludes that a policy of a preferential corporation tax rate for Northern Ireland, as compared to the rest of the UK, does not offer the best way forward for building a strong investment strategy for Northern Ireland. He is not convinced that a cut would represent good value for money. In particular, the role of supply side factors needed to be paid due attention, and caution taken on the responsiveness of investment to a cut in the rate.

The review examines the tax position in Northern Ireland, in both its international context and in comparison with the Republic of Ireland. It finds that the UK compares favourably with its G7 partners in terms of corporate tax levels. It also finds that the UK has a lower rate of tax than the Republic in areas such as VAT and the top rate of income tax, and offers more generous R and D tax credits and tax relief on dividends.

The review recommends a strategy to develop private sector investment in Northern Ireland based on maximising the benefits of the competitive advantages that already exist in Northern Ireland, including current financial investment incentives, and realising the potential further to improve this competitive advantage.

The report notes that for many years the Northern Ireland economy has been over reliant on public sector investment for its growth but that political progress over the last ten years to end conflict and to transform Northern Ireland to a peaceful, stable society has already helped attract inward private sector investment. The restoration of devolution on 8 May is a major turning point and incentive for such further inward investment.

The report identifies Northern Ireland's key competitive advantages as including:

> Operating costs which are highly competitive and significantly lower than in the rest of the UK and the Republic of Ireland;
>
> a well developed telecoms infrastructure providing important benefits for business;
>
> one of the youngest populations in Europe and high educational achievements;
>
> attractive financial incentives, recruitment and training, research and development and other development support tailored to each company's needs.

The report recommends that these advantages can be maximised by a strategy to:

> Further improve basic and technical skills and retaining the best and the brightest;
>
> tackle the size of the public sector and efficiency of the administration;
>
> foster innovation through better university and business collaborations; and
>
> Prioritise trade and investment promotion across Government, including working links between Invest Northern Ireland, the Irish Investment and Development Agency and UK Trade and Investment.

In short, Sir David Varney's report found that the conditions for economic success for Northern Ireland are more than a matter of tax incentives. There are lessons in terms of improving labour force participation, basic skills, and efficiency and organisation in the public sector; and Northern Ireland needs to move towards the execution of a strategy focused on business and economic development.

In the light of Sir David Varney's report, the Government are working with the Executive to:

> Strengthen trade and investment promotion by UK Trade and Investment reviewing with Invest Northern Ireland the scope for better marketing of Northern Ireland to higher value-added FDI; and
>
> promote closer working between the UK Government, the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government to promote a coherent overall science strategy, including considering the suggestion of creating 'science cities'.

This will build on the May 2007 settlement, elements of which specifically focus on issues highlighted in the review as key to a sound and forward looking investment strategy:

> An innovation fund focusing particularly on levering in private sector investment and promoting collaborative research. This includes matched funding of £36 million from the Irish Government targeted specifically on collaborative research and development;
>
> a new Northern Ireland Corporate Tax Office to promote the competitive tax position;
>
> a local employment partnership—that will help create 5,000 jobs for the unemployed in Northern Ireland—between five leading employers in the retail sector. The expansion of this initiative to other sectors, including security, hospitality and facilities management, offers the Northern Ireland Executive further opportunity to work with employers to maximise the opportunities for those in Northern Ireland who are inactive or unemployed;
>
> a major conference in Northern Ireland for prospective investors from the USA, led by the Executive and fully supported by the Government.

The Northern Ireland Executive has put growing the economy at the top of its priorities. This is reflected in the draft Programme for Government that was published on 25 October 2007, along with a draft Investment Strategy and draft Budget for 2008-11. I welcome the strategy that this programme sets for building economic success to benefit all communities in Northern Ireland, including the good progress that is being made towards the planned US inward investment conference next year.

I have discussed the report and next steps with the Executive and I am today announcing that Sir David Varney has agreed to carry out a further review building on his first review and focusing on identifying policies and incentives for strengthening and sustaining private sector growth, investment and employment in Northern Ireland.

Against that background and the desire of the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive to work in partnership to create the conditions for sustained economic growth and increased employment opportunities for all, the terms of reference for the second review are:

> "In the light of Sir David Varney's review of Tax Policy in Northern Ireland, published on 17 December and the Northern Ireland Executive's draft Programme for Government and draft Budget published in October 2007, Sir David Varney will undertake a second review. Building on Sir David's earlier analysis and agreement from all parties about the unique circumstances of Northern Ireland (in relation to the opportunities provided by the peace process, the need to strengthen the private sector, to create increased employment opportunities and to reform the public sector) this review will explore in more detail how to expand the private sector and to enhance Northern Ireland's competitiveness. In this context, the review will look at incentives for supporting the sustainable growth of businesses, investment and employment in Northern Ireland and the implications for reducing the historic dependency on the public sector. This will include examination of incentives for growth in Northern Ireland that fall within the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government. Sir David will aim to report in good time for the US Investment Conference. He will be supported by a small secretariat and will receive direct and regular input from Northern Ireland Executive officials".

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Regional Development Agencies

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I have published the reported mid-year output results for 2007-08 for England's Regional Development Agencies.

The data show the progress made by the Regional Development Agencies between April and September 2007 in delivering against the core output targets set in RDA corporate plans for 2005-08. The figures cover employment creation and support, business creation and support, leverage of public and private sector infrastructure investment, brownfield land reclamation/redevelopment, and skills development.

I am placing copies of the mid-year RDA output figures in the Libraries of both Houses, and the results have also been placed on the BERR website at:

http://www.BERR.gov.uk/regional/regional-dev-agencies/rda-performance/page42777.html

### Postal Services Market

**The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton):** The Government set out their vision for postal services in the UK in its 1999 White Paper "Post Office Reform: A World Class Service for the 21st Century" and took this forward in the Postal Services Act 2000. The Act had as its prime objective the maintenance of the universal postal service. It was designed to provide both social and business consumers with a more efficient and effective postal service through the introduction of competition and greater commercial freedoms for the Royal Mail to operate within a fully liberalised market while maintaining the provision of the universal postal service. We remain committed to this vision.

It is now seven years since the Act passed through Parliament and there have been significant developments since then.

The postal services market was fully liberalised by Postcomm nearly two years ago on 1 January 2006. The Government believe that this has brought considerable benefits for the users of postal services. Royal Mail has, through the efforts of management and postmen and women up and down the country, significantly improved its performance, delivering quality of service levels that in the last full year were at record-breaking levels. New market entrants are providing increasing choice for consumers and pushing innovation in the industry.

The Government have demonstrated their commitment to seeing Royal Mail compete effectively in this new marketplace through an unprecedented level of additional investment (£2.1 billion in 2007) to enable the company to modernise. The result of the recent ballot on pay and modernisation means that management and staff have given the Royal Mail a mandate for modernisation.

It has become clear that the market conditions for all postal service operators are challenging, with growing evidence of e-substitution and more sophisticated use of mobile communication. Postcomm's strategy review ("The Postal Market 2010 and Beyond—Emerging Themes") published in August 2007 noted that the postal market is changing and that they expected market volumes to decline. The European Union, supported by the British Government, recently set a clear timetable for a fully liberalised European postal services market by the end of 2010.

In the light of these significant developments, and in line with its manifesto commitment, the Government is launching a review of the postal services sector. The review will be led by an independent panel chaired by Richard Hooper and comprising Dame Deirdre Hutton and Ian Smith.

Its terms of reference are:

To assess the impacts to date of liberalisation of the UK postal services market, including on the Royal Mail, alternative carriers and consumers.

To explore trends in future market development and the likely impact of these on Royal Mail, alternative carriers and consumers.

To consider how to maintain the universal service obligation in the light of trends and market developments identified.

We are today issuing a call for evidence for the review so that the review panel's analysis of the market can take into account the view of the widest possible range of interests.

It is expected that the review will report its conclusions next year.

### Statutory Auditors and Third Country Auditors Regulations 2007

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** My Department has today made regulations implementing many of the provisions of the Directive on Statutory Audits of Annual and Consolidated Accounts. (The Statutory Audit Directive—2006/43/EC).

These regulations have been developed following two consultations, the first on the policy and the second seeking comments on a draft of these regulations. Alongside these regulations we are therefore publishing a summary of the comments received on the draft regulations, and a statement of the Government's conclusions.

This document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the BERR website.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### School Buildings

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** Last week's Children's Plan set an ambition for all new school buildings to be zero carbon by 2016, and announced the appointment of a taskforce to advise on how to achieve this ambition. I will set out the details of the membership and remit of the taskforce in the new year.

In the meantime, we are taking action now to reduce carbon emissions in new school buildings while we work towards the zero carbon goal. I am announcing today details of 200 or so projects that we expect to benefit from an additional investment of £110 million over the next three years, with the intention of reducing carbon emissions by around 60 per cent. This provides an additional £50 per m$^2$ (about £500 k for the average secondary school) to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures on school sites.

| *BSF wave* | *Local Authority* | *School* |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | BARKING AND DAGENHAM | Dagenham Park |
| 3 | BARNSLEY | Penistone Grammar |
| 3 | BARNSLEY | New school to replace Royston and Edward Sheerien |
| 3 | BARNSLEY | Darton High |
| 3 | BARNSLEY | The Dearne High |
| 3 | BARNSLEY | New school to replace Priory and Willowgarth |
| 3 | BARNSLEY | Kirk Balk |
| 3 | BARNSLEY | St Michaels RC and CE |
| 3 | BARNSLEY | New school to replace Kingstone and Holgate |
| 3 | BARNSLEY | New school to replace Foulstone and Wombell |
| n/a | BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET | Writhlington School |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | Waverley |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | Holte |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | Mayfield |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | Stockland Green |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | The Heartlands |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | Eastside |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | The College High |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | Kings Norton |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | Sheldon Heath |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | Shenley Court |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | Harborne Hill |
| 2 | BIRMINGHAM | St Albans |
| 4 | BLACKBURN | Blakewater |
| 4 | BLACKBURN | Pleckgate |
| 4 | BLACKBURN | Witton Park |
| n/a | BOLTON | Withins |
| n/a | BRACKNELL FOREST | Garth Hill College |
| n/a | BRADFORD | Rhodesway |
| n/a | BRENT | Stadium |
| n/a | BRIGHTON & HOVE | Falmer |
| 4 | BRISTOL | Ashton |
| 4 | BRISTOL | St Mary Redcliffe |
| 4 | BRISTOL | Hengrove Community Arts College |
| n/a | BROMLEY | Langley Park School for Boys |
| n/a | BUCKINGHAMSHIRE | Cressex Community School |
| 4 | CAMBRIDGESHIRE | Queens School |
| n/a | CHESHIRE | Academy 1 - North |
| n/a | CHESHIRE | Academy 2 - South |
| 4 | COVENTRY | Finham Park |
| 4 | COVENTRY | Ernesford Grange |
| 4 | COVENTRY | President Kennedy |
| 4 | COVENTRY | Swanswell |
| 4 | COVENTRY | Tile Hill Wood |
| n/a | CUMBRIA | Academy 1 |
| n/a | CUMBRIA | Academy 2 |
| n/a | DARLINGTON | Eastbourne |
| 3 | DERBYSHIRE NE | Springwell |
| 3 | DERBYSHIRE NE | Shirebrook Academy |
| 3 | DERBYSHIRE NE | Bolsover |
| O | DERBYSHIRE NE | Tibshelf |
| 3 | DURHAM | Seaham Tech |
| 3 | DURHAM | Shotton Hall |
| n/a | EAST SUSSEX | Bexhill High School |
| 4 | ESSEX | Beauchamps High School |
| 4 | ESSEX | Woodlands |
| 4 | ESSEX | Castle view |
| 4 | ESSEX | The Deanes |
| n/a | ESSEX | Academies 1 and 2 |
| n/a | GLOUCESTER | Academy 1 |
| n/a | HACKNEY | Skinners |
| 2 | HACKNEY | Cardinal Pole |
| 2 | HACKNEY | Our Lady Convent |
| n/a | HACKNEY | City of London /KPMG Academy |
| n/a | HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM | Academy 2 |
| 2 | HARINGEY | Heartlands |
| n/a | HARROW | Whitmore High School |
| n/a | HEREFORDSHIRE | Academy 2 Weybridge |
| n/a | HEREFORDSHIRE | The Minster College |
| n/a | HEREFORDSHIRE | Herefordshire Steiner |
| 4 | HERTFORDSHIRE | Thomas Alleyne |
| 4 | HERTFORDSHIRE | Marriotts |
| n/a | ISLE OF WIGHT | Cowes High School |
| 2 | ISLINGTON | Elizabeth Garrett Anderson |
| n/a | ISLINGTON | COLA |
| 3 | KENT | Northfleet |
| 3 | KENT | St John's |
| 3 | KENT | Thamesview |
| 3 | KENT | Academy 4 |
| n/a | KENT | Spires |
| 4 | KENT | Foreland School |
| 4 | KENT | St. Anthony's |
| n/a | KENT | Academy 8 |
| n/a | KENT | Academy 9 |
| 2 | KINGSTON UPON HULL | Archbishop Thurnstan |
| 2 | KINGSTON UPON HULL | Sir Henry Cooper |
| 1 | LANCASHIRE | Hameldon |
| 1 | LEEDS | Parklands Girls High |
| 1 | LEEDS | New Inner Leeds West |
| 1 | LEICESTER | Babington |
| 1 | LEICESTER | Riverside |
| 1 | LEICESTER | Hamilton |
| *BSFwave* | *LA* | *School* |
| 3 | LEWISHAM | New School Ladywell |
| 3 | LEWISHAM | Bonus Pastor RC |
| 3 | LEWISHAM | Deptford Green |
| 3 | LEWISHAM | Catford |
| n/a | LINCOLNSHIRE | Priory Witham |
| n/a | LINCOLNSHIRE | Priory City of Lincoln |
| n/a | LINCOLNSHIRE | Gainsborough |
| 2 | LIVERPOOL | Gateacre |
| 2 | LIVERPOOL | West Derby |
| 2 | LIVERPOOL | King David |
| 2 | LIVERPOOL | Cardinal Heenan |
| 3 | LUTON | South Luton High |

| *BSF wave* | *LA* | *School* |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | LUTON | Halyard |
| 4 | MANCHESTER | New school in East |
| 4 | MANCHESTER | North Manchester Boys |
| n/a | MANCHESTER | North Manchester Girls |
| 4 | MANCHESTER | Plant Hill High School |
| 4 | MANCHESTER | Parklands |
| 4 | MANCHESTER | Brookway |
| 4 | MANCHESTER | Trinity CofE |
| 2 | MIDDLESBROUGH | Acklam Grange |
| 2 | MIDDLESBROUGH | Acklam Base to replace Hall Garth and King's Manor |
| n/a | MILTON KEYNES | Sir Frank Markham |
| n/a | N.E LINCS | Havelock |
| 3 | N LINCS | New school to replace Thomas Sumpter and South Leys |
| 3 | N LINCS | High Ridge |
| 1 | NEWCASTLE | Gosforth West Middle |
| n/a | NEWHAM | Rokeby |
| n/a | NEWHAM | Lister |
| n/a | NEWHAM | Stratford City Academy |
| n/a | NORFOLK | Heartsease |
| n/a | NORTH SOMERSET | Nailsea Community School |
| n/a | NORTHUMBERLAND | Hirst |
| 2 | NOTTINGHAM | Farnborough |
| 2 | NOTTINGHAM | Henry Mellish |
| 2 | NOTTINGHAM | Big Wood |
| 2 | NOTTINGHAM | William Sharp |
| 2 | NOTTINGHAM | Greenwood Dale |
| n/a | NOTTINGHAMSHIRE | Samworth |
| n/a | OXFORDSHIRE | Oxford |
| n/a | PLYMOUTH | Estover Community College |
| n/a | REDBRIDGE | Loxford School of Science and Technology |
| 4 | ROCHDALE | Falinge |
| 4 | ROCHDALE | Hollingworth High |
| 4 | ROCHDALE | St Josephs |
| 4 | ROCHDALE | New |
| n/a | ROCHDALE | St Annes |

| *BSF wave* | *LA* | *School* |
|---|---|---|
| n/a | RUTLAND | Vale of Catmose College |
| 3 | SALFORD | Walkden High |
| 3 | SALFORD | Hope |
| 3 | SALFORD | Wentworth |
| 3 | SALFORD | All Hallows RC High |
| 3 | SALFORD | The Swinton High/Moorside |
| 3 | SANDWELL | St. Michael's CE High (Rowley) |
| 3 | SANDWELL | George Salter |
| 3 | SANDWELL | Westminster |
| n/a | SANDWELL | Willingsworth |
| n/a | SEFTON | Litherland High School |
| 4 | SHEFFIELD | Bradfield |
| 4 | SHEFFIELD | The City |
| 4 | SHEFFIELD | Stocksbridge |
| 4 | SHEFFIELD | Parkwood |
| n/a | SHROPSHIRE | William Brookes School |
| 4 | SOMERSET | East Bridgewater |
| 4 | SOMERSET | The Blake |
| 4 | SOMERSET | Chilton Trinity Tech |
| 4 | SOMERSET | Haygrove |
| n/a | SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE | Filton High School |

| *BSF wave* | *LA* | *School* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | SOUTH TYNESIDE AND GATESHEAD | Heworth Grange |
| 1 | SOUTH TYNESIDE AND GATESHEAD | Thomas Hepburn |
| 1 | SOUTH TYNESIDE AND GATESHEAD | Jarrow |
| 1 | SOUTH TYNESIDE AND GATESHEAD | King George V |
| n/a | SOUTHEND-ON-SEA | Belfairs High School |
| 3 | SOUTHWARK | St Thomas the Apostle |
| 3 | SOUTHWARK | St. Michaels |
| 3 | SOUTHWARK | Sacred Heart |
| 3 | SOUTHWARK | Archbishop Michael Ramsey |
| 3 | SOUTHWARK | Canada Water |
| n/a | SOUTHWARK | Waverley Boys |
| 3 | SOUTHWARK | Rotherhithe |
| n/a | SOUTHWARK | Walworth |
| n/a | ST HELENS | Academy 1 |
| n/a | STAFFORDSHIRE | JCB |
| n/a | SUTTON | Stanley Park High School |
| n/a | SWINDON | Headlands |
| 3 | TAMESIDE | Mossley Hollins |
| 3 | TAMESIDE | Hyde Tech |
| 3 | TAMESIDE | St Damians |
| 3 | TAMESIDE | New school to replace Egerton and Two Trees High |
| 3 | TAMESIDE | Ashton to replace Hartshead and Stamford |
| 3 | TAMESIDE | Droylsden to replace Littlemoss and Droylsden |

| *BSF wave* | *LA* | *School* |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | TELFORD & WREKIN | Lord Silkin |
| 4 | TELFORD & WREKIN | Sutherland |
| 4 | TELFORD & WREKIN | Wrockwardine Wood |
| 4 | TELFORD & WREKIN | Abraham Darby |
| n/a | TOWER HAMLETS | St Pauls Way |
| n/a | TOWER HAMLETS | Raines Foundation |
| n/a | TRAFFORD | St Ambrose College |
| n/a | WEST BERKSHIRE | St Bartholomew's School |
| n/a | WEST SUSSEX | Academy 1 |
| n/a | WEST SUSSEX | Academy 3 |
| n/a | WEST SUSSEX | Academy 4 |
| n/a | WEST SUSSEX | Bognor Regis Community College |
| 3 | WESTMINSTER | Pimlico |
| n/a | WIGAN | Abraham Guest High School |
| n/a | WILTSHIRE | Wellesley |
| n/a | WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD | Holyport Manor Special School |
| n/a | WIRRAL | Woodchurch High School |
| n/a | WOKINGHAM | Waingels College |
| n/a | YORK | Joseph Rowntree School |

## Qualifications and Assessment: Regulation and Development

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** I am today laying before Parliament, with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the joint command paper (Cm 7281) "Confidence in Standards: Regulating and Developing Qualifications and Assessment". Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

On 26 September I announced that the Government would establish an independent regulator of qualifications and tests in England. The Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator will be the guardian of standards across the tests and qualifications systems, building on the regulatory work of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority over the last 10 years. "Confidence in Standards" sets out the detail of these proposals and our plans to establish a development agency for curriculum, assessment and qualifications which will take forward the non-regulatory functions of the QCA. We are confident that these plans will give the public greater confidence in the standards of qualifications and assessments.

Our Departments have launched a consultation on these proposals. The consultation materials are available from the DCSF website at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/. This consultation will run until 10 March 2008.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Interfaith Dialogue and Social Action

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears):** I am launching a consultation on "Face-to-Face and Side-by-Side: A Framework for Interfaith Dialogue and Social Action".

We have long recognised the contribution made by faith groups to local communities, in terms of charitable activity, social action, community cohesion, support in emergencies, as well as their spiritual and religious role.

The relations between every faith are integral to the success of each of them.

We want to take this opportunity to reflect on how Government should support this, where and in what circumstances interfaith works best and how we can work in partnerships with faith and non-faith based communities and organisations.

This consultation is part of the Government's response to the independent Commission on Integration and Cohesion's report "Our Shared Future" which set out a number of practical recommendations on how to build cohesion and a shared sense of belonging. The report outlined the important role that inter faith activity plays in building integration and cohesion, as well as the need for more constructive conversations between those of faith and those of none.

In particular the consultation will seek to:

Understand how to best build confidence in the benefits of partnership working and develop a greater understanding of the contribution that faith communities can make;

discover to what extent local authorities and other public bodies are already working with faith communities;

understand better the structures that aid interaction and social action and how can these be best developed;

learn about some of the barriers to inter faith activity—especially to the involvement of women and young people—and how we might best work together to overcome these;

look at what actions are needed to widen and deepen inter faith dialogue and social action.

Our society is deeply enriched by the presence of diverse faith groups, and our communities benefit from their local activity.

Copies of the consultation document have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Empty Properties Relief

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** I have today published a summary of responses received in response to the Government's stakeholder consultation document "Modernising Empty Property Relief", and have placed a copy in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government's proposals for reforms to empty property relief were part of a package of measures introduced in the Budget to help incentivise the efficient use of land, to help increase the supply of commercial property and to reduce costs for businesses. The Government consider that the reforms provide a strong incentive for owners to re-use, re-let or redevelop their empty shops, offices and factory buildings, and so improve access to property and reduce rents for businesses. The Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007, which received Royal Assent on 19 July, gave effect to these reforms, and set a revised empty property rate of 100 per cent. of the basic occupied rate.

Having considered the responses received to our consultation document, I can confirm that the Government will now take forward a number of additional measures.

The consultation document sought views on whether the existing permanent exemption from empty property rates available to listed buildings and those with a statutory protection should continue, or whether it should be varied. I have concluded that, on the available evidence, there can be a greater degree of work involved in bringing empty listed properties back into beneficial use compared to other properties and that the evidence supports such properties continuing to benefit from an exemption from empty property rates.

I have also concluded that companies in administration should benefit from a permanent exemption from empty property rates. This will bring them into line with companies that are in liquidation and individuals subject to bankruptcy proceedings. We are committed to the promotion of a rescue culture which provides opportunities for insolvent companies that have viable underlying businesses to be rescued wherever possible. A permanent exemption will remove any potential for decisions about whether to enter administration to be distorted by differences in rates liability.

I have considered carefully the responses to the consultation document about the potential risk of owners of empty property taking measures to avoid payment of rates on their property. The Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007 gave the Secretary of State, and the Welsh Ministers, the power to make regulations to tackle any such activity. The consultation document set out a number of options as to how such regulations might be constructed if the Secretary of State were minded to make them.

There was a substantial body of comment about the proposed measures. I have concluded, on the basis of those responses, that the likely incidence of avoidance activity following the introduction of the reforms to empty property relief is low. It would be an extreme step for a property owner to go to the lengths of deliberately vandalising a potentially valuable asset so that it is beyond economic repair. This view was expressed by a number of respondents to the consultation document.

Having taken account of all the responses, I have concluded that the existing circumstances do not warrant the introduction of anti-avoidance regulations at this stage. However, I am clear that, if it appears that there is evidence of measures being taken by owners of empty property to avoid payment of empty property rates, the Government will not hesitate to use their powers. We will work with the Local Government Association, the Valuation Office Agency and the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation to monitor the impact of the reforms and assess whether regulations should be introduced in the future.

We are now working on drafting the relevant secondary legislation to give effect to our reforms on empty property relief. This includes introducing the new six-month exemption from empty property rates for vacant industrial and warehouse properties, as announced in the 2007 Budget. We intend to lay this secondary legislation before Parliament so that all aspects of our reforms to empty property relief can come into effect on 1 April 2008.

## Planning Policy Statements

**The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper):** I am today announcing publication of the new Planning Policy Statement (PPS): "Planning and Climate Change" and a consultation draft of the new PPS: "Planning for Sustainable Economic Development". Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Our economy must be prepared to meet the challenges of increasing global competition, and to seize the opportunities presented by rapid technological change. In the Planning White Paper, "Planning for a Sustainable Future", we set out a vision of a planning system better able to support a dynamic economy. But this planning system must also respond to the urgent challenges presented by climate change.

Economic growth and higher environmental standards must go hand in hand. We want the planning system to do more to promote jobs and economic growth, but to do so in a way that is environmentally sustainable and that helps cut carbon emissions. Equally we want to ensure the programme to cut carbon emissions should also help support the jobs and homes we need for the future. Our reforms are designed to ensure that the planning system is flexible enough to support both, making a critical contribution to sustainable economic growth for the 21st century.

PPS "Climate Change" is being issued as a supplement to PPS1: "Delivering Sustainable Development". This PPS is central to the entire series of planning policy statements. New requirements for local authorities will ensure that tackling climate change becomes a primary objective of the planning system, reflecting the emphasis in the White Paper. This will help to speed up the shift to renewable and low-carbon energy, supporting our ambitions on zero carbon development and helping shape places resilient to the impact of climate change.

First, this PPS confirms the central role of planning in helping to achieve zero carbon homes from 2016. We also believe we need to develop a similar approach for non-domestic buildings, and today we are publishing analysis from the UK Green Building Council, commissioned by the department to support significant cuts in carbon emissions from new non-domestic buildings.

Secondly, this PPS will help speed up the shift to renewable and low carbon energy, by challenging councils to do more to support delivery of local renewable or local low-carbon energy — including through setting percentages of energy for new development to be generated from local renewables or low carbon sources such as microgeneration or community schemes. It also expects councils to think about the potential for local low carbon energy generation and cutting carbon emissions when identifying the best sites for development.

Thirdly, local government has a critical role in ensuring that local communities and infrastructure are able to cope with the impact of climate change—not only the effects which are felt today, but also those that can be anticipated in the future. The PPS therefore reflects the central role of planning in shaping places that are resilient to climate change and habitats that sustain biodiversity.

We consulted on a draft of the climate change PPS at the beginning of the year and have considered very carefully the responses we received. The approach has received broad support. The final document being published today takes account of the detailed issues raised.

Moving towards a low-carbon economy is a huge challenge. It requires a revolution in the way that we design, heat and power our buildings, and a concerted effort from a huge number of organisations—from local authorities, to developers, to environmental groups and local communities themselves. It also requires collaborative and responsible working to ensure change takes place alongside delivering the additional homes as well as the new jobs and regeneration we need. The policy set out in the PPS provides a strong framework for that degree of co-operation.

We are also publishing a draft PPS on sustainable economic development. The Barker Review of Land Use Planning showed that planning authorities do not always give sufficient weight to the potential economic benefits of new developments. This draft PPS seeks to ensure that local planning authorities take these benefits into account alongside relevant environmental and social issues.

It would require local authorities to identify and maintain a supply of land which caters for existing employment and business needs while also delivering the infrastructure and housing we need. It would require local authorities to respond positively to new proposals to promote economic development. However, given increasing demands on the limited land available, it would also require planning authorities to make the most efficient use of land and buildings. It also emphasises the importance that we attach to excellence in design.

Together, the policies outlined in these PPSs will deliver economic growth sustainably, promoting job creation while also helping to tackle climate change.

### Buncefield

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** On 12 June 2007, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made a statement to the House in which she outlined the independent investigation procedure that was taking place into the incident and the availability of reports produced by the investigation board, including recommendations relating to design and operation of fuel storage sites. She said that a report with recommendations on emergency planning, response and recovery was in preparation.

In response to a recent request (business questions on 6 December) from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), the Leader of the House has asked for a further statement on progress.

The Buncefield Major Incident Investigation Board published its report and recommendations on emergency preparedness for, response to and recovery from major incidents on 17 July. It has also published a report on safety and environmental standards for fuel storage sites, and one from its Explosion Mechanism Advisory Group that advocates a joint industry research project be initiated to explain the severity of the explosion that occurred at the site. Copies of these, and other earlier reports, are available from the official investigation website at: www.buncefieldinvestigation.gov.uk.

The report published on 17 July made a number of recommendations in four areas: reassessing major incident scenarios; managing major incidents on-site; preparing for and responding to major incidents off-site; and planning for recovery from major incidents.

Although set in the context of the Buncefield incident, the recommendations, particularly those relating to emergency preparedness and response, can be applied beyond fuel storage and distribution sites. Many of these are complex and far-reaching. They need to be considered at a wider, national level and reflect the co-ordinated views of the different departments, and the Devolved Administrations, that have responsibility for them. The Government will be responding formally to these recommendations in due course.

I can comment on some issues that are specific to the Buncefield depot.

The report recommends that all relevant organisations should be involved with recovery at an early stage. Such joint working has already delivered financial and practical support to aid recovery through the Bellwin scheme (which was extended beyond its usual duration), and ongoing support from the East of England Development Agency which has also provided financial assistance of £4.4 million to date.

The East of England Development Agency is also working closely with stakeholders developing proposals to designate the area as a "New Town Improvement District".

Under this programme local partners aim to bring together a combination of funding mechanisms that could help finance some of the major improvements identified in the Maylands Business Park masterplan.

Hemel Hempstead is one of 21 urban areas identified in the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the East of England plan, the regional strategy, as "Key Centres for Development and Change" at which additional development will be focused. The proposed changes include a requirement for an additional 12,000 homes in Dacorum, including expansion of Hemel Hempstead.

As part of the comprehensive spending review outcomes, the Government announced £1.7 billion of investment in the growth areas, growth points and eco-towns over the CSR period. Local authorities in existing growth areas and growth points were invited to prepare programmes of development setting out what additional infrastructure and other funding they sought from Government to support housing delivery over the next three years (2008-2011). In view of the housing targets set out in the Secretary of State's proposed changes Dacorum borough council was invited to submit a programme of development for the support it would require to deliver the proposed housing growth, with the intention that, subject to the final RSS, Dacorum would be brought into the growth areas programme to allow it to receive infrastructure and delivery support from the growth fund.

On 4 December, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing announced £732 million for local authorities in growth areas and growth points for infrastructure to support housing growth. Based on its submitted programme of development, Dacorum borough council has received a provisional award of £2,554,062 capital and £159,377 revenue in 2008-09, and an indicative provisional award of £3,575,687 capital and £239,034 revenue for the period 2009-10 to 2010-11. In line with Local Government White Paper principles, the Government's new approach to growth funding gives local authorities flexibility in how they use the funding they receive, so it can be used where they judge it will be most effective. This provisional funding award is subject to Dacorum being brought into the growth areas as a result of the final form of the regional spatial strategy.

The hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) recently asked about the re-opening of the Buncefield site. In his reply the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform stated that the Buncefield site is of strategic importance for the supply of aviation fuel to Heathrow and Gatwick airports. He stated that a number of applications for planning permission to restore operations at the Buncefield site had been submitted to Dacorum borough council and that at these had yet to be determined (26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 119W).

On 29 November, Dacorum borough council's development control committee considered these applications. The committee resolved that decisions on five of the six applications considered should be delegated to officials with a view to planning permission being approved, subject to completion of a planning obligation under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Approval would be for storage and supply of aviation fuel only. The planning obligations would restrict storage and supply of ground fuels until a future date. Negotiations on the planning obligations are a matter for Dacorum and the oil companies, on which it would be inappropriate to comment. Similarly, the future use and development of the Buncefield site is matter for the oil companies and, in the first instance, Dacorum borough council, to whom applications for planning permission would be made.

The Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency are statutory consultees in the planning process and will ensure the planning authority has expert advice should applications be made. They are also joint competent authorities for major hazard sites, regulated under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations, before operations were able to resume the site operators would have to satisfy these authorities that the site would adhere to the highest operating standards.

## DEFENCE

### Autumn Performance Report

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** I have today placed in the Library of the House copies of the Ministry of Defence's Autumn Performance Report. This shows that the Armed Forces, supported by their civilian colleagues, continue to achieve our highest priority: success on operations, particularly those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Summer 2007 Floods (Interim Report)

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I would like to report to the House that this morning Sir Michael Pitt published his interim independent report on the flooding that affected large areas of England in June and July this year.

Sir Michael's final report will be published next summer following a further period of consultation with the public and interested organisations. As a result of the good progress already made, the Government have agreed with him that the remit for his review should be formally extended to cover the recovery arrangements put in place following the floods.

The Government welcome publication of this interim report and acknowledge the hard work that Sir Michael and his team have put into its publication to meet the timetable and terms of reference which we set. Sir Michael took evidence from a range of individuals and organisations, including people affected by the flooding, the emergency services, local MPs and councillors, local authorities, Government Departments and agencies, academics and the private sector. As well as many individual local reviews, separate national reviews have or are also being undertaken by, among others, the Environment Agency, the Local Government Association, the Association of British Insurers, the fire and rescue service and the water industry. I also know, and welcome, the considerable interest that Members have taken in relation to the floods, including the current inquiry by the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee.

The House knows of the severe impact on those people and businesses whose lives were turned upside down by this summer's floods and the costs that have been borne by them, insurers and the Government. While many people have now been able to return to their homes, some are still living in temporary accommodation while repairs continue. They are bearing their ordeal with considerable fortitude and I know that the thoughts of Members will be with them this Christmas and into the new year. Our particular sympathies are, of course, with the families of those who lost their lives during the floods.

The interim report confirms the extreme nature of the weather that gave rise to the floods and acknowledges the efforts that were made by everyone in responding. It identifies a number of urgent steps which it recommends should be taken straight away. These relate particularly to monitoring of specific flood risks, better information sharing and the practicalities of emergency response. The Government agree with all of the urgent recommendations and will work with all organisations involved in taking them forward as quickly as possible.

The report also sets out 72 interim conclusions, on which Sir Michael is seeking views before he publishes his final report. The Government will carefully consider these and respond to him. However, we are already taking action to address a number of the key issues raised in the report, including:

Defra officials have already met with Water UK and water companies in England to help ensure a wider take-up of the more immediate and practical lessons from the water supply emergency in Gloucestershire. We will now follow up those discussions in the light of the specific recommendations in the report, such as a review of the minimum supply requirement for water to be provided in the event of the loss of the piped supply.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked electricity network operators to review the resilience of electricity substations to flooding. This work is underway under the leadership of the Energy Networks Association.

Sir Ken Knight, the Government's chief fire and rescue adviser, is in the final stages of a review looking at the operational response and role of the fire and rescue service during national flooding incidents. His review will consider, amongst other issues, the need for inter-operability between fire and rescue services' training and equipment and that of other local responders.

We have revised our flood emergency procedures to set out more clearly how Defra, as lead Government Department, will manage serious flooding in conjunction with the Environment Agency and operational responders on the ground. These procedures were tested during the east coast tidal surge on 9 November and we have refined them further after that event.

Developing proposals for better management of surface water, including resolving the current complex institutional arrangements and use of sustainable drainage systems, both of which we shall be considering early in the new year as part of our new water strategy.

Developing a strategic overview role for the Environment Agency for all sources of flooding and coastal erosion.

Finalising national guidance on multi-agency flood planning, upon which we will shortly be consulting key organisations before it is made more widely available in the new year.

A broader range of other work is in progress, under our "Making Space for Water" strategy, to ensure that our long term approach to managing flood and coastal erosion risk is sustainable and takes full account of climate change. As part of this, a series of pilot studies is under way to investigate integrated approaches to urban drainage management and improved resilience of properties.

The House will know that the Government are committed to increasing investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management. It will rise from its current level of £600 million to £650 million in 2008-09, £700 million in 2009-10 and £800 million in 2010-11. We are establishing new outcome measures to secure best value for investment and, through the Environment Agency, are considering whether a long-term investment strategy for the next 20 years is appropriate for this policy area.

Successive Governments have invested substantially in improving flood defences over many years and there have also been significant advances in flood warning and emergency planning. It is worthwhile recording that the Environment Agency estimate that these defences protected 100,000 properties from flooding this summer. The agency also state that, while some permanent defences were overwhelmed, in only nine locations was the defence structurally damaged, five of these after being overtopped, and that none of these failures made property flooding worse. Defences also protected many properties from flooding during last month's east coast tidal surge.

I will report further to the House in due course.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### General Affairs and External Relations Council (10 December 2007)

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy):** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Kim Darroch (UK Permanent Representative to the EU) represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Brussels. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas) also attended for discussion of Economic Partnership Agreements.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

#### General Affairs

*Preparation of the European Council on 14 December*

The Council discussed the presidency's draft European Council Conclusions. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary intervened, together with other member states, to press for a positive and forward looking declaration on globalisation, conclusions language on Burma and for a firm commitment that the EU should take stock of progress on the Millennium Development Goals at the European Council's meeting in June 2008.

The European Council was also expected to welcome the signature of the Lisbon treaty on 13 December and agree to set up a reflection group to discuss ways to address the EU's longer-term challenges.

*2007 Enlargement Package*

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary intervened to stress the importance of reaffirming our accession commitments. The Council Conclusions reiterate the December 2006 Conclusions setting out EU consensus on enlargement. This is based on consolidation of existing commitments, rigorous conditionality and improved communication on the benefits of enlargement. The Council agreed that chapters for which technical preparations have been completed will be opened, and reaffirmed that the pace of negotiations depends on accession states making the necessary reforms. The Council looks forward to the Accession Conferences with Turkey and Croatia next week. This demonstrates that the accession negotiations continue to make progress.

#### External Relations

*European Neighbourhood Policy*

External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner briefed the Council on the Commission's Communication of 5 December on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and work in taking forward the policy, including on economic integration and market access.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary intervened to welcome the Commission's work on ENP as a framework for supporting our ENP partners in implementing their political and economic reforms including in the Middle East and Moldova.

*Economic Partnership Agreements*

Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson briefed the Council on progress in negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

The Council agreed a draft regulation on market access aimed at enacting the provisions of interim EPAs with certain ACP countries. This opens duty and quota-free access to the Community market, with improvements to the previous rules of origin provided for by the ACP-EU Cotonou partnership agreement, to those ACP countries that have initialled agreements with the Community that are compatible with World Trade Organisation rules.

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development intervened to support the EPAs process while setting out the Government's continued concerns about non-least developed countries that have yet to initial an agreement, encouraging flexibility in the EU's approach to these countries and asking that time be made for further discussion. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development is making a separate, fuller, statement on EPAs.

*Western Balkans*

Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, EU representative of the Troika (EU, Russia and US), briefed the Council on the outcome of the Troika process, which had ended without agreement between Belgrade and Pristina on Kosovo's future status. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary intervened to underline the importance of the EU taking on its responsibilities and moving forward to a resolution of the Kosovo issue.

The Council also adopted conclusions supporting the Western Balkans EU perspective and encouraging further progress on key reforms to allow the region to move forward from the conflicts of the 1990s.

*Middle East Peace Process*

Palestinian Prime Minister, Salam Fayyad, briefed the Council on the challenges following Annapolis and on the Palestinian Government's Reform and Development Plan.

The Council adopted Conclusions, which the Government support, welcoming the Annapolis meeting and the understanding between President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert, to immediately launch bilateral negotiations with a view to concluding a peace treaty by the end of 2008. The Council Conclusions underline the EU's support for security through the early re-engagement and expansion of the EU Police Mission in the West Bank (EUPOL COPPS). The Council also underlined its commitment to work with international partners in supporting the Paris Donors' Conference on 17 December in assisting economic development in the region post-Annapolis.

The Council adopted conclusions on Lebanon reiterating the importance of political parties reaching agreement on a presidential candidate through consensus and dialogue.

*Burma*

The Council discussed the situation in Burma in light of ongoing work in the UN by Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari and special rapporteur on human rights, Sergio Pinheiro.

The Council noted the appointment of Piero Fassino as EU special envoy to Burma on 6 November and reaffirmed the EU's commitment to supporting UN-led efforts to promote dialogue in Burma.

*Sudan/Chad*

The Council discussed the EU's planned military operation in Chad/Central African Republic. Several member states indicated that they were considering providing further contributions.

The Council adopted conclusions reaffirming the EU's support for the ongoing efforts of the UN and the African Union to achieve a sustainable peace settlement in Darfur, including through mediation of the talks process begun in Sirte on 27 October. The conclusions also call on the parties to do all they can to ensure prompt deployment of an effective AU-UN peacekeeping force, UNAMID, which will assume authority from the current AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) by 31 December 2007.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Justice and Home Affairs Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Brussels on 6 and 7 December 2007. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice my right hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice); the Solicitor General for Scotland (Frank Mulholland) and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

The Council opened with a jumbo meeting of Interior and Employment Ministers who met to discuss the links between migration, employment and the Lisbon agenda. Commissioner Frattini highlighted legal migration as key to delivering the Lisbon agenda and addressing the demographic challenges facing the EU. The UK underlined our commitment to the Lisbon agenda and stated that the key to achieving it was to increase labour market participation, ensure national flexibility in legal migration, to combat illegal migration and to ensure integration and cohesion issues were taken into account in legal migration policy development. Every member state intervened and consistent themes emerged similar to those made by the UK but, in general, member states felt that these decisions were primarily for individual states.

The Council then moved on to the mixed committee which included Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. The presidency began by congratulating all concerned on the historic achievement of the extension of the Schengen acquis to the member states who joined the European Union in 2004. There were also updates on the Schengen Information System (SIS) communication network which was still on schedule to be completed within the prescribed timescale and the SIS II programme. The presidency spoke of the two key issues surrounding the SIS II programme: the overall timescale and the migration of data. The migration issue will be discussed at the informal JHA Council of the Slovenian presidency in January. The Commission said the timescale for delivery of SIS II in December 2008 was still technically possible.

There was a report on the progress made on the directive for common standards and procedures in member states for returning illegally staying third country nationals. As we are not yet convinced of the need for common standards in this area, the UK has not opted into this directive.

The main agenda began with agreement to Council Conclusions on mobility partnerships and circular migration in the framework of the global approach to migration. The presidency compromise was accepted after some textual amendments were made at the request of one member state to ensure references to circular migration were not becoming permanent.

Interior Ministers attended a presidency lunch with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Antonio Gutteres. He set out the UNHCR's expectations of the next stage of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and urged greater international co-operation between countries in regions of origin, transit and arrival. The Commission announced the results of the Green Paper on the second phase of the CEAS and detailed their timetable for proposals next year. The UK urged caution in timing of the second phase of the CEAS.

The report on the implementation of the counter-terrorism strategy was introduced by the presidency and the new EU Counter-terrorism co-ordinator, Gilles de Kerchove. He focused on the exchange of information and emphasised the importance of member states fulfilling their commitments under the 2005 decision on sharing information with Europol and Eurojust. Gilles de Kerchove commented on the importance of creating synergies between, for example, police, customs and judicial information and outlined the development of "check the web", common principles of data protection, and the implementation of Council decisions. The presidency agreed with Gilles de Kerchove on the importance of the relationship between Europol and Eurojust and work with the US. Work on these and other areas will continue under the Slovenian presidency.

The presidency welcomed the First Reading agreement on the weapons directive with the European Parliament. The UK congratulated the presidency on this outcome. There had been raids in Manchester seizing real and imitation firearms and this clearly underlined the importance of this issue. It is hoped this will be adopted under the Slovenian presidency.

The presidency hoped to conclude chapters vi, vii and ix of the Europol Council decision, subject to the outcome of decisions on budget neutrality, bold posts and immunity. However, after the UK and other member states confirmed their continuing parliamentary scrutiny reserves and member states raised further concerns about the voting regime, it was concluded that that these areas would need to be resolved at a later stage.

The incoming Slovenian presidency congratulated the Portuguese presidency for their achievements, particularly on SISOne4All. They announced that under their presidency, they would continue to take forward work on Europol, Prüm, the weapons directive, readmission agreements and CEAS. They also set out their future presidency programme and announced that their informal Council would take place in January at Brdl Castle.

The presidency also announced that the EU could now support the European Day against the Death Penalty as all reserves had been lifted. It would be celebrated on 10 October every year.

The presidency introduced the proposal to update the 2002 framework decision on combating terrorism to bring it in line with the Council of Europe convention. This was an important subject matter, and there was a delicate balance to be achieved to ensure that fundamental rights were protected whilst terrorism was effectively tackled. The Commission emphasised the importance of responding to terrorist use of the internet as a criminal matter not as freedom of expression. Most member states welcomed the proposed changes to the framework decision and the Commission's comments on the dividing line between freedom of expression and criminal acts.

The presidency presented achievements so far in work on e-justice. The Commission will increase funding in 2008 and produce a communication in May or June setting up an overall e-justice strategy.

The presidency confirmed agreement to the latest text on choice of law in contractual obligations (Rome I). The Government consider that the text now improves on the Rome convention and addresses earlier concerns about potential loss of legal and financial services to other jurisdictions. The UK will consult its stakeholders as soon as possible as to whether it should now opt into the text.

The Council conclusions on Eurojust were adopted without debate. Slovenia announced it would address the issues raised during their presidency. The Government support the conclusions but have made clear previously that any future proposals should focus on ensuring that Eurojust fulfils its potential within its current powers.

A general approach was reached on mutual recognition of suspended sentences, alternative sanctions and conditional sentences. The Government considered that the text balanced the different interests of member states and respected the differences between legal systems, while remaining proportionate. Accordingly, the UK was able to support a general approach.

The presidency gave an update on the framework decision of the European supervision order and confirmed that it was finalising the draft text in co-operation with the Commission and the incoming presidencies on the basis of the mandate provided from the September JHA Council.

The presidency reported that the recent EU-Russia JHA ministerial had gone well and included discussions on narcotics, particularly from Afghanistan and the signature of a memorandum of understanding on financial crime.

The two common positions on the review mechanism and asset recovery in relation to the UN convention against corruption were noted briefly by the presidency but no member state intervened.

The presidency noted the successful outcome of the diplomatic session on The Hague convention on maintenance and observed that this text was a good basis for work on the Community's draft regulation on the same topic.

The presidency announced the important outcomes achieved at the European-Mediterranean migration summit. The statement agreed at the Summit was balanced and comprehensive and included various projects to be taken forward. The Commission had announced €5 million to finance the projects agreed.

During the Justice Ministers' lunch, the Commission reported on the first meeting of the Justice Future Group, on which common-law countries are represented by the Attorney-General of Ireland. There was a general discussion.

One member state noted that consistency was needed between security needs and the Community work to set a standard for the ammonium nitrate content of fertiliser. The Commission agreed and said work would start in the new year.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### International Development Association (IDA 15)

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** I wish to inform the house that the UK intends to make a contribution of £2134 million to the 15th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA 15) which is the part of the World Bank group that provides assistance to low-income countries. This is the largest single contribution the UK has made to the World Bank. It represents a 49 per cent. increase over the UK's commitment of £1430 million to IDA 14. IDA 15 will cover the period from July 2008 to June 2011.

Collectively donors agreed to a target level for IDA 15 of $42 billion (£21 billion) of which about 75 per cent. is expected to come from donors and the remainder from internal Bank finances. Other donors have yet to finalise their contribution to IDA 15. Final decisions on contributions are expected next week in Berlin.

The money provided to IDA will be used by the World Bank to help countries accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals by supporting primary education, basic health services, clean water and sanitation, environmental safeguards, business climate improvements, infrastructure and institutional reforms. This work paves the way toward economic growth, job creation, higher incomes and better living conditions.

The large UK contribution reflects evidence of the effectiveness of the World Bank in working with partner governments in helping to foster sustainable growth and improvements in the living standards of people in the poorest countries. The World Bank works through a country-based model of development aligning its support behind a country's own poverty and growth strategy.

Negotiations on IDA 15 have been ongoing since March this year and the Bank and donors have agreed to a number of significant changes which will improve the way in which IDA works to deliver the MDGs—including:

Ownership—enhance country ownership by getting more staff in the field and increasing their decision-making authority, and continue to improve and monitor its performance on conditionality including the use of economic policy conditions;

Africa—over 50 per cent. of IDA's resources are expected to be allocated to sub-Saharan Africa over the three years of IDA 15;

Climate change—agreement that IDA has a core role to play with an emphasis on adaptation and, where appropriate, mitigation;

Fragile states—more staff and funding to fragile states, including by extending the length of time post-conflict countries are given additional assistance (for example, Afghanistan); and agreeing a framework to clear the arrears for countries re-engaging with the international community (for example, Liberia)

Gender—intensifying gender mainstreaming and continuing to monitor progress.

The detailed outcomes of the negotiations are recorded in a replenishment report and available on the Bank's website. Donors and borrowers meet midway through each IDA period to review progress and measure the performance of the Bank against the agreed benchmarks.

## JUSTICE

### Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson):** On 8 October my right hon. Friend the Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes) and I announced the appointment of Andrew Williamson CBE and Peter Smallridge CBE as independent co-chairs of the review of restraint in juvenile secure settings. The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have joint responsibility for the review.

My right hon. Friend and I undertook to report to the House on progress on the review.

On their appointment, the chairs and Ministers expressed a wish for the review to be open and transparent, and that they expected wide consultation. Since then, the chairs have met a wide range of interested parties. The chairs are also visiting all secure training centres and a range of young offender institutions and secure children's homes to learn first hand about restraint and to hear of the experiences and views of both young people and staff.

The chairs have invited all interested parties to submit written evidence to the review by 7 December. They will now be considering that evidence. However, the chairs are prepared to receive written submissions after 7 December.

The chairs intend to continue consultation, with a view to reporting their recommendations to Ministers by 4 April 2008.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron):** In my written ministerial statement of 26 July 2007, I referred to the actuarial review of employer contributions payable under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). Hewitt, the PCSPS Scheme Actuary, has now completed its review.

The review concerns the level of contributions payable by employers who participate in the PCSPS. The review does not cover member contributions which are specified in the PCSPS rules.

The review recommends that employer contribution rates should fall from an estimated average of 19.4 per cent. of employers' pay bills to an average of 18.9 per cent. This reduction will come into effect from April 2009.

Copies of Hewitt's report "Review of the Accruing Superannuation Liability Charges (ASLCs) as 31 March 2007" together with a supporting report entitled "Analysis of Scheme Experience between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2007" have been placed in the Library.

### Data Handling Procedures in Government

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband):** On 21 November, the Prime Minister announced that he had asked the Cabinet Secretary, with the advice of security experts, to work with Departments to ensure that all Departments and all agencies check their procedures for the storage and use of data.

The Cabinet Secretary has provided an interim progress report, which I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report further sets out a number of initial recommendations relating to the framework within which data are handled, which the Government accept.

A final report on the work is expected in spring 2008.

## TRANSPORT

### Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme (Accounts for 2006-07)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris):** The Dartford-Thurrock Crossing charging scheme account for 2006-07 is published today under Section 3(1)(d) of the Trunk Road Charging Schemes (Bridges and Tunnels) (Keeping of Accounts) (England) Regulations 2003. A copy of the accounts will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Transport Personnel

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly):** The Government need to be sure at all times that the right measures are in place to counter the evolving threat from international terrorism. To achieve this, we need regularly to consider and evaluate specific security measures to ensure that we have the balance right in the light of changing circumstances.

In the last two years, the Department has been helped greatly in this process by the findings of two separate reviews into the management and application of security on transport infrastructure: "Policing at Airports" by Stephen Boys Smith and Lord West's wider ranging "Review of the Protection of Crowded Places, Critical National Infrastructure and Transport Infrastructure".

Following on from Lord West's review, which focused on physical infrastructure, and to continue this process of ongoing appraisal of the security framework, the Government have commissioned an independent review of how personnel security is delivered across the transport sector, including through background and identity checks and related measures. The review will examine the extent to which current arrangements cover all and only the right transport workers, and whether they do so to the correct and proportionate degree. It will provide an important and timely health check of current personnel security arrangements across the sector.

The review will be conducted by a team led by Stephen Boys Smith, who led the 2006 independent review of airport policing. This new review team will engage closely with all relevant elements of the transport sector as it carries out its work. A summary of the review's terms of reference has been placed in the Library of the House and published on my Department's website.

I have asked Stephen Boys Smith to provide an initial report to me in the new year setting out in detail the scope of the work that he will carry out and a timetable for the delivery of his final conclusions. Following completion of the review, I will publish a summary of its recommendations.

I would encourage all parts of the transport sector to work with Stephen Boys Smith to ensure a full and effective review and maintain a robust, but proportionate, framework for transport security.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Financial Assistance Scheme

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain):** The Prime Minister announced last week that the Government would make a statement on the review of pension scheme assets undertaken by Andrew Young. The Prime Minister said that as a result of the review the Government would be able to announce that assistance from the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) would be guaranteed to 90 per cent.

Andrew Young's report is published today and I am very pleased that we are able to announce a settlement that helps the 130,000 people already eligible for FAS—and an additional 11,000 people in some schemes with solvent employers. These have suffered losses, through no fault of their own, as a result of their pension schemes winding up underfunded between 1 January 1997 and 5 April 2005, before the introduction of the Pension Protection Fund.

In his interim report published in July, Andrew Young identified that there was approximately £1.7 billion in assets in affected pension schemes that had not been used for annuity purchase. He concluded that the current system of annuitisation was not the best use of these assets. He said alternative solutions could provide the basis for higher assistance for members.

The Government recognised in July that more needed to be done to help those who lost their pensions. Following the publication of Andrew Young's interim report, we therefore committed to match the extra value identified by the review with the goal of moving towards 90 per cent. assistance. We also introduced regulations to protect the £1.7 billion, placing a temporary halt on the purchase of annuities.

Since July, Andrew Young has been considering how much additional value might be generated by alternative treatment of the assets. These are complex issues and I thank him for the clarity of the final conclusions in his report.

He has concluded that, to provide a guaranteed benefit level, the best value will come from Government absorbing all the residual assets in the schemes and then making the associated payments as they fall due[1]. He has also said that members of schemes wound up by solvent employers are in similar circumstances to those in schemes wound up by insolvent employers.

Since receiving a draft of the report ten days ago, I have been working closely with the Chancellor to finalise the details of the Government response.

I can announce today the following extensions to the Financial Assistance Scheme:

> All scheme members will be guaranteed 90 per cent. of their accrued pension at the date of commencement of wind-up, revalued to their retirement date[2].
>
> This will be subject to a cap of £26,000, the value of which will be protected.
>
> Payment of assistance derived from post-1997 service will be increased in line with inflation (subject to a 2.5 per cent. limit).
>
> Assistance will be paid from the scheme's normal retirement age, subject to a lower age limit of 60. (people who are unable to work due to ill health will also be able to apply for early access to their payments from the age of 60, subject to actuarial reduction)[3]

Where their share of scheme funds allows, members will be able to commute some portion of their pension to a lump sum[4]

Assistance will be extended to members of schemes which wound up underfunded (after 1 January 1997 and before the employer was required to meet the full buyout cost) where the employer is still solvent.

The final details of these proposals will be confirmed in the new year, when we will outline the legislation necessary to give effect to this package. We will do this as quickly as possible and call on all parties involved to work with the Government to ensure this commitment results in increased payments in the fastest possible time. Our priority will be to ensure that people who have already reached their scheme pension age receive payment at 90 per cent.

The additional costs of this package will be £935 million in Net Present Value (NPV) terms. This will be on top of the £2 billon NPV we have already committed—£8.6 billion in cash terms. This will take the total commitment to £2.9 billion NPV, or £12.5 billion in cash terms.

This exceeds the Government's commitment to match the additional value identified by Andrew Young.

The Government recognise the difficulties experienced by those who lost their pensions through no fault of their own. We believe that the revised scheme we have announced today represents a generous and appropriate final settlement.

Notes:

1) HMG will take overpayments to some fully funded pensions and other benefits associated with the assets transferred. The figures referred to in this statement do not include such members.

2) Pensions accrued up to a member's date of leaving will be revalued in line with scheme rules up to the start of wind-up. Pensions that would have been revalued under scheme rules will then be revalued in line with price inflation capped at 5 per cent. per year compounded for the period. These rules will broadly equate to the compensation revaluation offered by the PPF.

3) Payments will be backdated to the 14 May 2004 when the FAS was first announced.

4) Subject to share of fund and restrictions that may be placed on the commutation of Guaranteed Minimum Pension rights.

5) Inflation linking of pensions in payment will be capped at 2.5 per cent.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 18 December 2007*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Simplifying Business Support

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** Tomorrow my Department is publishing a formal response to the consultation on how Government Departments, Regional Development Agencies, local authorities and non-departmental public bodies should support business in the future. This looks not just at the support my Department provides, but much more broadly across the whole of government at a national, regional and local level.

The formal response document builds on the initial Government response to the "Simplifying Business Support" consultation. It summarises responses received and provides further information on the future, shared framework for publicly funded business support we are developing in the light of evidence and consultation feedback. This shared framework will enable Government and the broader public sector to implement our vision for business support in 2010.

It sets out the principles for making the delivery of business support more efficient and builds on decisions taken in the light of economic analysis and the consultation on "Simplifying Business Support" on access to business support and business support interventions referred to in paragraphs 4.43 to 4.46 of the pre-Budget report. Business Link will continue to be developed as the primary publicly funded access channel to business support. In the spirit of simplification, Business Link will aim to build on best practice partnership working with local authorities, business support providers, business membership organisations and other key partners.

We are also publishing an early stage impact assessment.

We have consulted businesses, including social enterprises, business representatives, local authorities, organisations that support business and other interested parties. The consultation ran from 22 June to 14 September. Copies of the response to the consultation document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses on 19 December 2007 and the document will be on the DTI website at:

www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/index

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Homes and Communities Agency

**The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper):** Sir Bob Kerslake has been appointed the first chief executive of the Homes and Communities Agency.

The new agency will be key to delivering the 3 million new homes by 2020 pledged by the Prime Minister. The Homes and Communities Agency will bring together the current work and programmes of the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships. It will also take on delivery functions from Communities and Local Government. We will set out further detail on the Homes and Communities Agency functions to inform the Committee stage of the Housing and Regeneration Bill in January.

Sir Bob is currently chief executive of Sheffield city council and will initially take responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation of the agency. He will then become its first chief executive when the agency begins operating on 1 April 2009.

Sir Bob has shown throughout his career a strong record of delivery in housing and regeneration. He was selected from a strong field of applicants for the position and is ideally suited to leading the agency in delivering Government's challenging housing and regeneration agenda.

### Local Government

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** On 5 December 2007, I announced to the House the five unitary proposals that the Secretary of State had decided to implement without modification, having considered all the information and representations available to her.

In the case of the unitary proposals for Cheshire, I announced on 5 December that there remained alternative proposals for the whole area concerned which, as I confirmed to the House in July, we judged reasonably likely to achieve the outcomes specified in the five criteria. I assured the House at the time that we would make final decisions as soon as we could.

Having now considered all the information and representations available to her, including the very large volume of additional material that she has received since July, the Secretary of State remains of the view that there is a reasonable likelihood that, if implemented, both proposals would meet the outcomes specified by each of the criteria set out in the invitation of 26 October 2006.

Overall, she has decided that it is more likely that the long-term outcomes around strategic leadership, neighbourhood empowerment and value for money and equity on public services would be delivered to the greater extent by the proposal for a two unitary Cheshire. This is the process that we set out in the consultation document "Means of Prioritising Proposals" issued in June 2007. She has therefore decided to confirm her earlier "minded to" decision, and accordingly intends to implement the proposal for two unitary authorities in Cheshire by order made under section 7 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

It is now for all the councils in Cheshire—their members and employees—to work constructively and imaginatively together to deliver two new unitary councils that will achieve their full potential for local residents. Local people will rightly expect nothing less than their successful delivery.

In the case of the unitary proposals from Bedford borough council and Bedfordshire county council, I confirmed on 5 December that, on the basis of the information then available to her, the Secretary of State remained minded to implement Bedford borough council's proposal subject to there being a satisfactory proposal for the rest of the county area. I notified the House on 19 November that the Secretary of State had invited the other councils in Bedfordshire by 17 December to make proposals for future unitary local government structures in the remainder of the county area.

We have now received a response to this further invitation from the remaining district councils in Bedfordshire—Mid and South Bedfordshire district councils. In accordance with section 7(3) of the 2007 Act, we will tomorrow be launching a consultation seeking the views of partners and stakeholders in the areas affected by the proposals for Bedfordshire. Partners and stakeholders includes all local authorities, the wider public sector, the business community, and the voluntary and community sector. It will, however, be open to anyone to respond to the consultation document that we are issuing, copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

After the stakeholder consultation, we will consider very carefully all the representations that we have received. Any proposal or proposals will proceed to implementation if, and only if, when we take our final decisions, we remain satisfied that they meet all of the criteria set out in the invitation.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Correction to Written PQ 165260

**The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge):** An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May), 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 12W.

The full answer given was as follows:

*Mrs. May*: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and in respect of each what was (a) the title and purpose of the project, (b) the cost to the public purse and (c) the dates on which the project was (i) put to tender, (ii) awarded to Opinion Leader Research, (iii) carried out and (iv) completed and its findings put to the Department.

*Margaret Hodge*: "There have been no contracts awarded by my Department to Opinion Leader Research since 1997".

The correct answer should have been:

"In 2005 the Central Office of Information commissioned on behalf of the Department a qualitative research project on the BBC trust and the television licence fee from Opinion Leader Research, as part of the BBC's charter review. The resulting report, "BBC Charter Review: Focus on the BBC Trust and the Enforcement and Collection of the Licence Fee", was completed in December 2005 and published by the Department in March 2006. The Department made a payment of £38,205.13 to the Central Office of Communication for this research.

The Central Office of Information operates a specific roster of accredited suppliers of market research and has the capacity and expertise to help identify the most suitable agency for a particular project. The Department chose to rely on the Central Office of Information's expertise and use its roster system to allocate the project, with the result that a formal tender procedure by the Department was not necessary".

## DEFENCE

### Chinook Mk3 Reversion Announcement

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** I announced in March our intention to convert the eight Chinook Mark 3 helicopters to a support helicopter role, in order to make them available to operations as quickly as possible. I am pleased to report that the Ministry of Defence has now signed a contract with Boeing to carry out the modification work. The most likely overall cost to the defence budget to modify the helicopters is £90.1 million, of which £62 million is taken up by the contract with Boeing.

We expect the first aircraft to be available for operations in 2009. These eight additional helicopters will represent a significant uplift to the UK's heavy lift helicopter fleet. As the Chinook fleet has proven on numerous occasions, these helicopters are a key battle-winning capability. The eight converted Chinook will join the existing fleet of 40 RAF Chinook helicopters and will be based at RAF Odiham.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Single Farm Payment Scheme

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** In my statement of 2 July (*Official Report*, column 41WS), I reported that the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) had met its formal target of making 96.14 per cent. of payments under the 2006 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) by 30 June.

Outstanding cases continue to be processed and there now remain about 60 claimants who have received a partial payment and await the balancing sum. Work has also to be completed in respect of a further 80 claims, mainly small ones and those affected by legal issues such as probate. Starting in the new year, interest will be paid to claimants on sums paid after 30 June 2007 on the same basis as for the 2005 scheme.

I also reported in July that a review was underway of 2005 cases where entitlement values have been identified for review and possible adjustment, upwards or downwards, to 2005 and 2006 payments. Further investigation led to a total of some 38,250 cases for review. The review has been completed in all but 1,150 cases, mostly those identified for possible correction subsequent to July. Where appropriate, additional payments are being made on the reviewed cases. Work is also underway to recover overpayments.

Alongside those activities, RPA has been processing the 106,000 or so claims that have been submitted under the 2007 SPS. The necessary system and process updates have progressed to plan, allowing a pilot run of full payments to be made on 10 December. Having evaluated the results of that pilot, the RPA chief executive has now authorised a series of full payment runs with the first payments expected to be with claimants this week. With payments having been initiated a month earlier than for the last scheme year, the agency is currently on track to meet its targets for 2007 SPS of making 75 per cent. of the total value of payments by the end of March 2008 and 90 per cent. by the end of June 2008.

I will continue to update the House on progress.

## Agriculture and Fisheries Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw):** I represented the United Kingdom at the November Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels. The Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead, and the Welsh Minister for Rural Affairs, Elin Jones, also attended.

The Council reached unanimous political agreement, with the UK voting in favour, on a proposal establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The plan transposes into EU legislation the recommendation agreed in November 2006 by the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Agriculture Commissioner presented the Commission Communication "Preparing for the Health Check" of the common agriculture policy (CAP) reform. The communication will build on the approach that began with the 2003 reforms, improve the way the policy operates based on the experience gathered since 2003 and make it fit for the new challenges and opportunities in an EU of 27 member states in 2007. I welcomed the Commission's initiative as an important opportunity further to cut the trade distorting nature of the CAP, reduce regulatory burdens, give farmers greater control over their business decisions, and direct more public spending towards delivery of targeted public benefits.

The Agriculture Commissioner presented a proposal to reform the EU support scheme in the cotton sector. This proposal will introduce a revised reform of the EU cotton regime following the annulment by the European Court of Justice of the cotton reforms agreed in 2004. She also presented a proposal to temporarily suspend the import duties on certain cereals until 30 June 2008, with the exclusion of oats. I intervened to enter a parliamentary scrutiny reserve and queried why oats was excluded from the scope of the proposal, as it was inconsistent with the Healthcheck paper that says that all cereals should be dealt with in the same way.

The Fisheries Commissioner presented a proposal on combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and updated Council on the outcome of a recent conference held in Lisbon. I welcomed the Commission's initiative as an opportunity to reduce the regulatory burden of the necessary controls. I also stressed the importance of dealing with the problem and the crucial role that the trade network will play in this regard.

The Commission also updated the Council on the conclusion of the annual EU/Norway consultations for 2008 and the 2006-08 action plan for simplifying and improving the common fisheries policy. On EU/Norway, I warmly welcomed the Community commitment to reduce discarding in fisheries which catch cod and reducing whiting discards in all fisheries and was pleased with a cod TAC increase of 11 per cent. I regretted the fact that Norway was unable to accept the unanimous pelagic regional advisory council advice on the herring TAC but overall felt it was a fair agreement for the UK and the Community.

Under any other business, Greece supported by a few member states, called on the Commission to introduce measures (such as income support, intervention measures or transport aids) to support its livestock industry due to the steep rise in costs of animal feed.

Latvia called on the Commission to use intervention funds to compensate livestock producers for the high cereals prices and to come forward with proposals for "long-term systematic solutions and crisis management" in the context of the Healthcheck.

France, supported by a few member states, called for further relief measures in the form of export refunds to alleviate the difficulties currently being experienced in the pigmeat sector. The Agriculture Commissioner announced her intentions to submit a proposal to introduce export refunds in the pigmeat sector to the pigmeat management committee on 29 November.

The Agriculture Commissioner also updated Council on the state of play in the WTO negotiations.

Over lunch, Ministers had an exchange of views on the Commission's paper analysing the economic impacts of unapproved GMOs on EU feed imports and livestock production. In common with some other member states I argued that while there must be no compromise on maintaining a rigorous assessment and approvals regime for new GM products entering the EU, we should explore the scope for overcoming difficulties in this area and improving the speed with which GM applications are processed.

In the margins of Council, the presidency and the Commission held trilateral meetings with Agriculture Ministers from the various member states to discuss the Commission's wine reform proposals.

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw):** I will be representing the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels. The Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead, and the Northern Irish Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle Gildernew, will also attend.

The presidency will seek political agreements on a Commission proposal to reform the wine sector and on a package of proposals on food improvement agents. The presidency will also seek political agreement on the total allowable catches (TACS) and quotas and related measures fixing fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks for 2008 and on associated conditions for certain fishing stocks, applicable in Community waters.

The Council hopes to adopt a proposal on the definition, description, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks and a proposal establishing the date for application of electronic identification in sheep and goats born after 31 December 2007.

The Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner will present the Commission's report on the dairy market sector and a proposal to increase milk quotas by 2 per cent.

The Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner will report on the progress of a proposal covering the marketing of plant protection products. Following this, the presidency will seek political agreement on a proposal establishing the sustainable use of pesticides.

A number of issues, as follows, will be raised under any other business: the Netherlands has asked for an update from the Commission on illegal timber imports. Germany has asked for a discussion on the common action plan on shark fishing; and Sweden has asked for a discussion on the eligibility criteria for the slaughter premium for bovine animals.

In addition, the Commission will provide a written update on avian influenza and will ask Council for the swift adoption of the EU/Mauritania fisheries agreement.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Sanctions Regimes

**The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells):** The Government is committed to informing Parliament annually of the sanctions regimes which the United Kingdom implements. Currently the United Kingdom implements United Nations sanctions in relation to al-Qaeda and the Taliban, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and terrorism.

The UK also implements sanctions regimes imposed autonomously by the EU in relation to Belarus, Burma, China, the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (in connection with individuals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia or responsible for certain acts of violence at Mostar), the Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

In accordance with a decision of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Kingdom implements arms embargoes on Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Government also takes full account of the Economic Community of West African States moratorium on certain exports of small arms and light weapons to Economic Community of West African States members.

A full list of sanctions regimes and restrictive measures implemented by the UK is published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/sanctions

Following a request from the noble Lord the right hon. Lord Wakeham during the 12 October debate on the impact of economic sanctions in another place, this document now includes objectives and lift criteria for each regime.

### Presidential Visit

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** I am pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen has invited the President of the French Republic Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy to pay a state visit to the United Kingdom from Wednesday 26 March to Friday 28 March 2008. The visit will further reinforce the close relations which exist between the United Kingdom and the Republic of France. The annual UK-France summit will take place during the state visit.

## HEALTH

### Community Hospitals

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** "Our Health, Our Care, Our Community" published in July 2006 set out our ambition for community hospitals. It announced the setting up of a £750 million capital investment programme over five years from 2006-07 to develop a new generation of community hospitals and services.

I am announcing today funding for a further nine schemes, which are supported locally by a broad cross-section of partners and other stakeholders:

£3 million towards the development of a new town centre primary care facility in Hartlepool;

£3.7 million to refurbish St Charles hospital in North Kensington in London;

£5 million for a new health park at Keynsham in Bath and North Somerset;

£6.4 million towards a new health and social care campus at Dursley, Berkeley Vale;

£7 million towards a joint health and community campus development for Selby;

£13.2 million for the development of two community hospitals at Moreton and at Bourton in the North Cotswolds;

£17.1 million to develop a community hospital on the site of St Mary's hospital in Portsmouth;

£19.3 million to provide a new community hospital facility at Malvern; and

£20 million to develop three community hospitals in East Riding at Beverley, Horsea and Driffield hospitals.

Approval is subject to clearance through the formal business case process.

The total value of these schemes is equivalent to approximately £132 million, of which £95 million will be funded from the community hospitals and services programme. Today's announcement means that 23 schemes have now been approved which have a total value of roughly £272 million, bringing the investment from the community hospitals programme up to £190 million.

These schemes will change the face of the local NHS. They offer genuine opportunities to deliver better and more flexible primary care and community health services to local communities providing better access and integrated services closer to home.

### NHS Pension Scheme Valuation

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen):** The report by the Government Actuary of the valuation of the NHS pension scheme at 2004 is published today. I am placing a copy of this report in the Library of the House.

The principal purposes of the valuation are to assess the level of liability in respect of the benefits due under the NHSPS regulations, taking into account the demographic experience of the scheme since the previous valuation, and to recommend the contribution rate to be paid by the employers who participate in the scheme. This will be implemented from 1 April 2008.

The report shows that as a result of the changes to the NHS pension scheme being implemented from 1 April 2008, the recommended employer contribution rate has reduced from 15.3 per cent. of pensionable pay (that would have been required) to 14 per cent. of pensionable pay (the current contribution rate). This represents a saving of around £430 million in contributions.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Visitors

**The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne):** I am today publishing a consultation paper on proposals to reform the visitor routes into the UK.

This consultation fulfils the promise made in our strategy "Securing the UK Border" published in March 2007 to consult on four main categories of visitor: tourist, business, short-term student and family. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Over the next 12 months there will be sweeping changes to the immigration system. The points-based system will ensure that only those the UK needs will be able to come here to work, study or train and we are currently consulting on new arrangements for marriage visas, including whether to introduce an English language requirement. The time is now right to look at short-term routes into the UK.

Our visit visa system for those people wishing to travel to the UK is already changing—by next spring we will be taking everyone's biometrics so that only the people we are sure of can come to Britain. We now want to make sure that the visitor system is robust against abuse while maintaining the UK's position as a destination of choice for tourists.

The consultation contains a number of options to ensure that the system is fit for the 21st century. These include reducing the maximum leave available to tourists from six to three months; introducing a UK-based sponsor for visitors travelling to see family in the UK, requiring this sponsor to put up a financial deposit to guarantee that their family member will leave the UK at the end of their stay and reforming appeal rights for these visitors.

The consultation period will run for 12 weeks and the final date for responses is 7 March 2008. Once the process has concluded, and views considered, we will report on the results of the consultation and any proposed changes to the immigration rules relating to visitors.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Skills Pledge: Management Information

**The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham):** I am drawing the attention of the House to a factual error of reporting in relation to the number of employers who have voluntarily made the skills pledge to support the upskilling of their employees.

On 12 December 2007 the House was informed by the Minister for Skills within Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, my hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy), that the number of employees covered by the voluntary pledge was 3.1 million, based on information from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Incorrect figures were used in a small number of other instances in reply to Members' questions and in another place. However, I was informed on Friday 14 December by the LSC that the correct figure is 2.3 million and that the mistake was due to a computer programming error which has now been detected and rectified. The LSC has confirmed that the number of employers making the skills pledge (630) was correct. I apologise to the House unreservedly for this inadvertent error. I am also writing to Members who were given the incorrect figure.

The LSC's internal quality assurance processes identified this programming error. However, I have asked the LSC chief executive to ensure through a rigorous review of his organisation's information and reporting systems that there is no recurrence of this problem. This review will report to me in January 2008 as part of my ongoing considerations on the future leadership and management of the skills pledge and its contribution to making the skills of the workforce world class.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Adult Male Prison Estate

**The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins):** I am publishing today a report entitled the "Options Appraisal Relating to the Long-term Accommodation Needs in the Adult Male Estate for the Northern Ireland Prison Service".

Following a review of the Northern Ireland Prison Service efficiency programme in June 2005, the Government asked the Northern Ireland Prison Service to prepare a strategic development plan aimed at drawing up a blueprint for the long-term development of the Prison Service. The estate strategy is a fundamental part of that process and in February of this year as part of this review I commissioned the "Options Appraisal".

I am proposing to retain the two current sites, Maghaberry and Magilligan, with an option for a third site should the prison population continue to rise.

I have decided that we will proceed with an 800-bed replacement prison for Magilligan delivered on a phased basis. The Northern Ireland Prison Service will recruit a programme manager and design team to take forward this work.

As the further detailed business case is worked up, the timing and phasing of the redevelopment at Magilligan will be informed by the availability of funding through the next spending round.

Over the next three years we will provide additional prison places in order to reduce doubling and meet shorter term population pressures. Specifically we will redevelop Mourne House at Maghaberry Prison as a 300-bed unit (240 new places), work on which has already commenced. There will be up to an additional 170 places at Magilligan including the recently opened Alpha Unit.

I have placed copies of the "Options Appraisal" in the Library of the House.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Council of Europe and Western European Union

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown):** My hon. Friend the Member for Crosby (Mrs. Curtis-Thomas) has been appointed as a substitute member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of Western European Union in place of my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice).

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# Petitions

*Tuesday 11 December 2007*

## OBSERVATIONS

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Housing Development (Kettering)

*The Humble Petition of Mr John Brunige and others of like disposition listed below,*

Sheweth

That new housing development proposed for Kettering and its surrounding area will only be sustainable and of general benefit for the local area if the necessary additional infrastructure to support the new population is put in place ahead of or in parallel with new housing construction.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House shall urge the Department of Communities and Local Government to consider the plight of Mr. Brunige and the other Petitioners and either bring forward firm plans to provide the necessary infrastructure or stop the housing expansion plans.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Philip Hollobone, Official Report,* 23 July 2007; Vol. 463, c. 658 .] [P000083]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

Northamptonshire is earmarked for significant growth as part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands (MKSM) growth area. Over 100,000 new homes will be built. Kettering is one of 4 districts in North Northamptonshire which forms part of a Local Delivery Vehicle dedicated to providing that growth.

The local authorities and other partners in North Northants are all currently delivering infrastructure projects through a total of £25m GAF2 (and in the case of the County Council as Local Highway Authority and the Highways Agency, around £7.4 million CIF) funding, in preparation for the growth that is expected to occur. For GAF2 projects the delivery of these are being co-ordinated by North Northants Development Company (NNDC) - the Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV) for North Northamptonshire - and for County Infrastructure funding (CIF) by the County Council and the Highways Agency.

These projects include highways improvements, bus and traffic management schemes, green infrastructure provision, town centre regeneration projects, remediation and bringing back into use of key employment sites to facilitate jobs growth etc.

For future delivery of key infrastructure, the LDVs (in this case NNDC) and their partners have been required to produce comprehensive Programmes of Development (PoDs) which are currently being considered by DCLG, and funding announcements for the next three years will be made in December 2007. These PoDs are intended to give details of the housing growth and where it is expected to go, plus provide details of all the key infrastructure projects which will be required over the medium and longer term to sustain such growth. In addition, NNDC and WNDC (the LDV for West Northants) have commissioned a Strategic Northamptonshire Action Plan which is currently being prepared to plan for the necessary increase in both the numbers and quality of jobs across the whole of Northamptonshire.

The PoD does contain details of some transport schemes, some of which are likely to be more suitable for the next round of GIF funding when this is announced. In addition, it does highlight that there are key road infrastructure restraints to the proposed growth- in particular the A14. There are no easy or quick solutions to this, but potential solutions have been identified which will take until at least 2015 to implement fully. In the meantime, the Highways Agency, NNDC, the County Council and other partners are working very closely together to work out interim solutions which can allow phased growth to go ahead in the meantime.

## HEALTH

### Ambulance Control Centre (Shrewsbury)

*The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of the Ambulance Emergency Operations Centre in Shrewsbury,*

Declares that the Petitioners condemn the proposed closure of the Ambulance Emergency Operations Centre in Shrewsbury, and are also deeply concerned about the possible loss of 16 fully trained Ambulance Control Centre staff jobs.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department of Health to instruct the West Midlands Ambulance Service to guarantee the continuation of control services in Shropshire.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Daniel Kawczynski, Official Report,* 19 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 1071 .] [P000061]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:*

Arrangements for where ambulance service control rooms are situated, and how calls into the control rooms are received, are a matter for the ambulance services themselves.

However, the Department would expect Trusts to ensure that their control rooms are fit for purpose and have the necessary capacity, capability and resilience to deal with the requirements of a modern ambulance service. The majority of new Ambulance Trusts are looking at a range of issues relating to how they can streamline and improve their operations and WMAS are not alone in examining their control room functions.

# Petitions

*Wednesday 12 December 2007*

## Carers' Grant

*The Petition of the Alzheimer's Society (South Buckinghamshire Branch) and residents of Chesham and Amersham and others,*

Declares that carers and former carers having greatly appreciated Carers Grant that has enabled them to take breaks from caring for those closest to them and that this benefit has helped them to care for those that they love in their own homes.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to ensure that this valuable benefit continues to be made available through the Alzheimer's Society and other organisations in the voluntary sector.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. [P000085]

# Petitions

*Thursday 13 December 2007*

## OBSERVATIONS

## HEALTH

### Frontline Health Services (Haverhill)

*The Petition of residents of Haverhill,*

Declares that Haverhill doctors are united against plans to cut funding for the towns frontline health services by over £300,000.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department of Health to instruct Suffolk Primary Care Trust to reconsider the reduction in funding to Haverhill GP practices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Richard Spring, Official Report*, 22 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 1423 .] [P000057]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:*

The issues raised in the petition are local matters for Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) and my Department will bring these to the attention of the Strategic Health Authority, NHS East of England.

# Petitions

*Monday 17 December 2007*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

### Post Office Closures (West Sussex)

*The Petition of Post Office Users of Worthing and Adur,*

Declares that the closures proposed by the Post Office Ltd (POL) to nine post offices located in Worthing and Adur in West Sussex, which come on top of previous substantial closures and are the most severe changes suggested in the whole of Sussex, are not in the best interests of local residents many of whom are elderly and are unable to travel the increased long distances that closures entail, local shops rely on Post Offices to encourage local business or indeed the local community as a whole which already experiences long queues for access to Post Offices.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons Her Majesty's Government, as a matter of urgent public importance, to instruct the Royal Mail Group to suspend this closure programme and redefine the criteria on which closures are being proposed with regard to the hardship it will cause communities with high levels of elderly people and deprivation and poor public transport links in particular.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

## OBSERVATIONS

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Planning (Leighton Buzzard)

*The Petition of the people of Leighton Buzzard, Linslade and surrounding parishes of Eggington, Heath and Reach and Hockliffe,*

Declares that, while recognising the need for affordable housing growth to meet local need, it strongly objects to the disproportionate and unsustainable proposals to build 6,000 dwellings on 850 acres of Green Belt land around their communities. This enforced indiscriminate development is a direct result of Leighton Linslade being placed in the Growth Area for South Bedfordshire. Large-scale housing developments have been ongoing around the south of Leighton Buzzard since 2001, and a further such development of 1,300 homes is currently going through the planning process. However, this recent expansion has not brought with it more jobs or opportunities for local people. Their town is at breaking point. They are already unable to sustain the existing population with healthcare, education, policing, social care, sporting and community facilities that it needs. Traffic congestion is intolerable, with roads being completely grid-locked at peak times. They believe that further large-scale development will place an impossible extra strain on an area that is already woefully short of infrastructure. It will accelerate the decline of our historic town centre. There will be a hugely negative impact on their local environment, their communities and their quality of life. Large sections of their Green Belt will be lost forever. Their small market town and the surrounding villages will be irreversibly changed for the worse.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to reject the proposed development and any similar future unsustainable developments, and to recommend that Leighton Linslade and surrounding parishes are excluded from the Growth Area for South Bedfordshire.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report, 13 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 642 .]* [P000044]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

The scale and location of the development in the area of concern to the petitioners is set out in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy which was produced following extensive public consultation. The level of development to be delivered in the Leighton Linslade area is dependent on the scale of growth to be accommodated within urban extensions to Luton and Dunstable Regis.

The Sub-regional Strategy also requires the local authorities to take positive action to deal with the issues raised by the petitioners including: recycling of urban land; increased housing delivery within the built up area; increasing the attractiveness of town centres; raising environmental quality; tackling congestion and providing better public transport; achieving better quality development; providing a better choice of employment sites to attract a wider range of companies, and ensuring early delivery of sustainable urban extensions (£1 million was recently allocated for the development of a Sustainable Transport exemplar scheme for Leighton Linslade).

The impact on local services should be addressed in the local sustainable Community Strategy prepared by the Local Strategic Partnership and this must be a key input to the production of the Local Development Framework which will set out the preferred development options in detail. The Local Development Framework process is designed to include extensive public consultation and local residents should take the opportunity to engage constructively with the local planning authority as it seeks to develop an effective core strategy for dealing with the growth which Luton and South Bedfordshire are required to accommodate.

The Government has no intention of making fundamental changes to Green Belt policy (as set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 2: Green belts) and the level of protection that it offers. Boundaries can only be changed in exceptional circumstances and after public consultation and public inquiry through the development plan process.

## TRANSPORT

### Rail Services (Northampton)

*The Petition of residents of Northampton and people who use the local rail services,*

Declares that there is serious concern about the proposal in the draft 2008 timetable to end the 7.12 fast train to London which is the main train service used by commuters who work in London.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to reinstate the fast train service from Northampton to London at 7.12 am.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Sally Keeble, Official Report, 19 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 1071 .]* [P000062]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:*

Virgin West Coast (VWC) currently provides a Pendolino for the 0712 Northampton to London Euston service because the resource can be provided ahead of other commitments during the day. The service was provided as a temporary measure because the trains were available and the new Desiro trains ordered specifically for the Northampton line had yet to be delivered. This temporary operation was communicated clearly to stakeholders when the service was introduced in September 2004.

Virgin have continued to run the train after the Desiros were introduced because there has not been the option to use the train to relieve crowding and accommodate above forecast traffic growth on the main longer distance route. This is because of the capacity limits on the West Coast Main Line while key infrastructure, such as Rugby station and junctions, are rebuilt.

From December 2008, when the infrastructure upgrade is complete, all Pendolinos will be needed to be in intensive main line use before 0800 to operate the more frequent long distance services between London, the West Midlands, Manchester, Liverpool, the North West and Scotland. These are the services for which the line is being upgraded and the trains were ordered. Despite this requirement, it has proved practicable to retain one morning Pendolino service between Northampton and Euston, at 0642.

Northampton was not planned to receive any Pendolinos or other upgraded links as part of the ill-fated Railtrack upgrade. Government, through SRA and DfT intervention, has secured not only the replacement and increase in fleet size of all of the Northampton to London trains, but it has also delivered higher speed running on the slow lines, 12-car platforms to accommodate traffic growth and a step change improvement in the dependability of the service.

Under the terms of the franchise agreement, London Midland is committed to the provision of three 'limited stop' services from Northampton to arrive at Euston between 0800 and 0900, and to provide 12-car trains for each. These trains are timed to leave Northampton at 07:01, 07:15 and 07:38, taking 64, 61 and 61 minutes respectively, for the 66 miles. The only intermediate calls will be at Wolverton, Milton Keynes and Leighton Buzzard. A 12-car Desiro provides 72 first-class and 639 standard class seats, compared with a 147 first-class and 300 standard-class seats on a Pendolino and much more suitable for peak commuting.

The DfT published an Invitation to Tender in 2007 for the provision of new fleet of 125mph Inter City trains. It included an option for a London -Northampton-Manchester service. A final appraisal of the business case for the deployment of these new trains will take place in 2008.

# Petitions

*Tuesday 18 December 2007*

## PRESENTED PETITIONS

### Post Office Closures (Brighton and Hove)

*The Petition of the residents of the Southern Cross neighbourhood.,*

Declares that Trafalgar Road Post Office in Portslade must be kept open.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and the Post Office Ltd. to stop the proposed closure of this Post Office, and other local Post Offices which provide a unique service.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Celia Barlow .]* [P000098]

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 10 December 2007*

## TRANSPORT

### Airports: Parking

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions with stakeholders she has had on competition in the market for airport parking. [168665]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Airport parking charges are a commercial matter for the airport operator. The Office of Fair Trading is, however, able to investigate if it suspects that a feature or a combination of features of the market in which airport services are supplied by an airport operator prevents, restricts or distorts competition.

Ministers have had no specific discussions with stakeholders on this issue.

### Aviation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library recent studies her Department has carried out on the economic impact of airport expansion. [168663]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Two documents were published on 22 November. The consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport", of which the impact assessment forms annex B of this document. The Department also published the "UK Air Passenger Demand and $CO_2$ Forecasts report". Both documents have been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department for Transport's website (www.dft.gov.uk/heathrowconsultation). The consultation runs until 27 February 2008 and, in line with Government practice, a summary of consultation responses will be published and a copy will be placed in the Library.

### Aviation: Leisure

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the increase in flights at *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* other UK airports in each of the last 10 years was of short haul leisure flights. [168673]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not available.

### Bexleyheath Station: Fares

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Southeastern Railway on the proposed 13 per cent. fare increase at Bexleyheath Station. [170302]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Government protect commuters by regulating the average annual increases in season tickets. On Southeastern, this increase is limited to 3 per cent. above inflation from 2007 to 2011.

Individual fares can increase by more than the average, as long as no individual regulated fare increases by more than 8 per cent. above inflation from one year to the next. Therefore, individual regulated fares on Southeastern can rise by up to 11.8 per cent. for 2008.

Southeastern is committed by its Franchise Agreement to zonalise all fares in London from January 2008, including seasons. To achieve this, and to maintain a balanced fare structure, a general derogation against fares regulation was granted for a number of season fares within London. There were no specific discussions on fares from Bexleyheath.

The new zonal fares structure on Southeastern will help pave the way for Oyster Pay-As-You-Go smart ticketing, to be rolled out across national rail in London from 2009. It simplifies the current complex system of individually-priced station-to-station fares.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many journeys were made by freedom pass holders on London buses in each of the last five years. [170972]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held centrally; it can be obtained from the London councils who administer the Freedom Pass scheme on behalf of the London boroughs.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what factors she took into account in distributing the grant to cover the cost of the implementation of the new concessionary fares scheme for bus travel from April 2008; and what representations she has received on the potential inequalities of the distribution of the grant funding; [171019]

(2) what estimate she has made of the ability of councils to pay for the concessionary travel scheme; and whether councils will be required to pay for the costs of visitors to the council area using the concessionary travel scheme. [171020]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** From 1 April 2008, people aged 60 and over and eligible disabled people in England will be entitled to free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England, not just within their local area as at present.

The costs will be apportioned to the Travel Concession Authority where the concessionaire boards the bus rather than where the concessionaire is resident—this is the only practical means of operating an England-wide concession for April next year.

The extra £212 million for the national bus concession will be distributed by the Department for Transport via a special grant. This extra funding is based on generous assumptions about pass take-up and trip levels and the overall probable cost impact of the new concession. We are therefore confident this funding will be sufficient in aggregate to meet the extra costs to local authorities. In addition, we have announced that we will be providing local authorities with approximately £31 million for the issuing of the national pass.

Any discretionary local enhancements, such as peak bus travel, are funded from an authority's own resources. Local enhancements can be restricted to eligible local residents. It is for local authorities to implement affordable local schemes taking account of their statutory obligations and their assessment of local circumstances and need.

Regarding representations on the potential inequalities of the distribution of the grant funding, the Department for Transport's consultation on the formula basis for the distribution of the special grant closed on 23 November. The consultation included a number of different options for distributing the new funding, taking account of likely cost drivers, including bus patronage, eligible residents and visitors. A summary of the responses will be published in due course.

The provisional special grant distribution was announced on 6 December and will be the subject of a parliamentary debate in the new year.

### Cycling: Finance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of her Department's spending has been devoted to encouraging cycling in each of the last five years. [164629]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department provides funding to encourage cycling through a number of different mechanisms. These are through a central budget, to local authorities through the local transport plan (LTP) settlement, and to the Mayor of London via a total transport grant through Transport for London (TfL). These combined give the following spend:

| | *Cycling spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 50.2 |
| 2003-04 | 43.0 |
| 2004-05 | 60.4 |
| 2005-06 | 51.2 |
| 2006-07 | 60.3 |

The DfT integrated block element of the LTP settlement was worth £547 million in 2006-07 while TfL received £2.4 billion. It is for local authorities and TfL to determine their spend on cycling.

This is a partial picture. There are many other initiatives that can contribute to the encouragement of cycling. For example, road safety and traffic calming schemes such as 20 mph zones or through programmes such as the Sustainable Travel Towns where all forms of sustainable travel including cycling are encouraged.

It would, therefore, be impossible to disaggregate the expenditure from these programmes and initiatives that have a direct impact upon encouraging cycling.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projects her Department has commissioned from external consultants in each of the last five years; and how much was paid by her Department to those consultants in each instance. [164639]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Lists have been placed in the Libraries of the House for commissions recorded within the Department and its agencies' accounting systems as consultancy for financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Details of the projects commissioned by the Department in financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs. Total expenditure recorded by the Department on consultancy in these years was £227.5 million (2002-03) and £239.5 million (2003-04).

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non EU foreign nationals are employed by her Department. [168098]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are a total of *(a)* 55 EU foreign nationals and *(b)* 21 non-EU foreign nationals employed in DVLA, GCDA, the Highways Agency, MCA, VCA and VOSA. Details for the Central Department and DSA can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from her Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167278]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport was created in 2002. The number of outward secondments from the Department each year from 2003, where records exist, are set out in the following table:

| | *Secondments out—total* | *Organisations* | *Duration* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 10 | Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust | 1 year |
| | | International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Montreal | 1 year |
| | | French Ministry of Transport | 3 months |
| | | European Commission, Brussels x 2 | 1 year; 4 months |
| | | Arriva | 2 months |
| | | Security Service | 2 years |
| | | First Great Western Trains | 1 month |
| | | Canadian Government | 23 months |

| | *Secondments out—total* | *Organisations* | *Duration* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 16 | Arriva x 2 | 6 months; 6 months |
| | | European Commission, Brussels x 3 | 1 year; 1 year; 1 year |
| | | European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), Portugal x 2 | 3 years; 25 months |
| | | English Heritage | 3 years |
| | | Standards Board | 3 years |
| | | Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) | 2 years |
| | | PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) | 1 year |
| | | Ernst and Young | 1 year |
| | | East Midlands Development Agency | 15 months |
| | | French Transport Ministry | 2 years |
| | | Japanese Government | 3 years |
| | | RAF Kinloss | 3 years |
| 2005 | 17 | BAA | 10 months |
| | | Cross London Rail Link x 2 | 2 years; 2years |
| | | West Sussex County Council | 2 years |
| | | PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) | 1 year |
| | | Mersey Travel | 1 year |
| | | European Commission, Brussels x 3 | 5 months; 2 years; 8 months |
| | | Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) | 2 years |
| | | Greek Transport Ministry | 1 month |
| | | SERCO | 2 months |
| | | Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) x 2 | 4 months; 4 months |
| | | Danish Road Authority | 6 months |
| | | EMSA x 2 | 4 years; 3 years |
| 2006 | 16 | French Transport Ministry | 1 year |
| | | Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANES) | 1 year |
| | | European Commission, Brussels x 3 | 6 months; 2 years; 2 years |
| | | Transport for London | 3 months |
| | | Faber Maunsell | 4 years |
| | | Maritime Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) | 1 year |
| | | British Council, Brussels | 2 years |
| | | Lifelites | 6 months |
| | | Bank of England | 2 years |
| | | Ertico | 6 months |
| | | Rijkswaaters tatt, Holland | 2 years |
| | | Citizens Advice Bureau | 1 year |
| | | BVI Administration x 2 | 2 years; 3 years |
| 2007 | 18 | European Commission, Brussels x 5 | 2 years; 6 months; 1 year |
| | | European Parliament | 2 years |
| | | European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), Portugal x 2 | 2 years; 3 years |
| | | International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) | 3 years |
| | | Transport for London | 1 year |
| | | BRB (Residuary) Ltd. X 2 | 3 years; 2 years |
| | | ACAS | 1 year |
| | | Connect for Health | 1 year |
| | | UBS Investment Bank | 1 year |
| | | South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) | 2 years |
| | | PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) | 6 months |
| | | Chamber of Shipping | 3 months |

The number of inward secondments in the same period, where records exist, are as follows:

| | *Secondments out—total* | *Organisations* | *Duration* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 5 | Japanese Government | 3 months |
| | | Parsons Brinkerhoff Ltd. | 5 months |
| | | French Road Ministry | 2 years |
| | | Fire Brigade | 4 years |
| | | Canadian Government | 3.5 years |
| 2004 | 17 | Buckinghamshire County Council | 2 years |
| | | Milton Keynes Council | 4 years |
| | | Lancashire Constabulary | 3 years |
| | | Japanese Government | 6 months |
| | | Ernst and Young | 17 months |
| | | Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) | 1 year |
| | | East Kent Council for Voluntary Services | 1 year |
| | | Arriva | 6 months |
| | | Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) | 1 year |
| | | Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) | 5 months |
| | | Mercer Management Consulting | 3 months |
| | | British Airways | 2 years |
| | | Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) | 6 months |
| | | Amey Highways | 2 months |
| | | Danish Road Directorate | 2 months |
| | | French Transport Ministry | 1 year |
| | | Fire Brigade | 3 years |
| 2005 | 10 | First Group Plc | 3 years |
| | | PricewaterhouseCoopers x 2 | 1 year; 9 months |
| | | French Transport Ministry | 3 years |
| | | Essex County Council | 2 years |
| | | Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) x 2 | 1 year; 3 months; |
| | | Strategic Rail Authority x 2 | 11 months; 5 months |
| | | Fire Brigade | 4 years |
| 2006 | 4 | RNIB | 2 years |
| | | Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) | 1 year |
| | | Wokingham Social Services | 1 year |
| | | Fire Brigade | |
| 2007 | 10 | Qinetiq | 2 years |
| | | Energy Saving Trust | 4 months |
| | | Deloittes | 1 year |
| | | Freshfields Legal | 6 months |
| | | PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) | 1 year |
| | | Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) | 3 years |
| | | Swedish Ministry of Enterprise | 1 month |
| | | Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) | 3 years |
| | | KPMG | 1 year |
| | | Simmons and Simmons Solicitors | 1 year |
| | | Ed Excel | 1 year |

Supporting financial information cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

## Heavy Goods Vehicles: Accidents

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of collisions on motorways in the last 12 months that have involved heavy goods vehicles from mainland Europe where the vehicle has not had adaptations to wing mirrors for use on British roads. [169510]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* Information is collected on whether vehicles involved in personal injury road accidents are foreign registered. However, no information is collected on either the country of origin or any adaptations to wing mirrors of vehicles involved in road accidents.

The information on foreign registered vehicles involved in reported personal injury road accidents which is collected is available from table 53 of "Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 annual report". Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This table can also be found at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/285672/WebTables4153.xls

In addition, the Department and agencies have investigated cases of lorries on international journeys involved in sideswipe incidents. Following successful trials in the South East which distributed 40,000 stick-on Fresnel lenses as an immediate solution to the problem, VOSA have published a report on the trials which is available online at www.vosa.gov.uk or from the House of Commons Library.

It was found that the lens helped to reduce sideswiping incidents in the South East by 58 per cent. We are now investing in further free distribution of 90,000 lenses.

## Highways Agency

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cost changes have been approved for schemes in the Highways Agency's major roads programme since the publication of the Nichols report in March 2007. [168982][1]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Following the Nichols report the arrangements for estimating and approving the cost of schemes within the roads programme are being improved. Schemes are not finally approved for construction until we have a price agreed with the contractor. Since publication of the Nichols report we have approved start of works for five schemes, at the expected costs shown in the following table.

| | *Expected cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| M27 Junction 3-4 | 17.4 |
| M27 Junction 11-12 | 36 |
| M1 Junction 25-28 | 345 |
| A1 Bramham to Wetherby | 65 |
| M25 Junction 1b-3 | [1]62 |

[1] In addition, £12 million of work has been transferred to the A2/A282 scheme.

The Highways Agency is currently undertaking an exercise to re-estimate the costs for schemes not yet in construction, following the recommendations on cost estimating in the Nichols report. Where appropriate they are examining the scope for using Active Traffic Management (ATM), in line with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's announcement on 25 October of a feasibility study into the scope for advanced traffic management. The results of the re-estimation process and the ATM feasibility work will be published in the spring.

In the meantime, where schemes need to progress through stages of development, the best information available at the time has been used. Since publication of the Nichols report, Ministers have agreed cost estimates for the purpose of publishing Environmental Statements or draft orders for the following schemes:

| | *Cost estimate agreed (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| M25 DBFO | — |
| Section 1 | 696 |
| Section 4 | 583 |
| M1 J10-13 | 601 |
| A421 Bedford to M1 J13 | 188 |

In addition we have approved the preferred route for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement. The estimate for this scheme is being reviewed, as noted above, and more robust estimates will be published in spring 2008.

## Railway Stations: Hampshire

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for the premises of former travel centres at Hampshire rail stations; and if she will make a statement. [172620]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** It is for franchise operators to manage the facilities at their stations within the contractual and regulatory framework.

South West Trains has put forward a number of proposals to change the use of Travel Centres at stations. These include details of the consultation responses and alternative arrangements proposed for passengers. These proposals are currently under consideration.

## Railway Stations: Security

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-86, on national security, at which railway stations she is planning to introduce baggage and passenger searches; and if she will make a statement. [165662]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 446-7W.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of the proposals in the report by Sir Alan West on security at *(a)* rail stations and *(b)* airports will be met from existing departmental budgets. [168669]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Under the long standing 'user pays' principle, it is the transport industry that delivers and funds security requirements. The Department for

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[1] *[Official Report, 28 January 2008, Vol. 471, c. 1MC.]*

Transport has responsibility for the policy and regulation of these protective counter-terrorism security measures.

The Department for Transport supports industry in meeting these requirements through collaborative working to achieve compliance and through the funding of research and the providing of advice. The aim is to ensure our security regimes remain proportionate and effective.

### Railways: Fares

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the recent increase in costs of unregulated train tickets; and if she will make a statement. [172883]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** In the absence of specific grounds for doing so, the Department has made no formal assessment of the recent increases in unregulated fares. However, we keep unregulated fares under review. The Department continues to listen to the representations of passenger focus and has invited them to take a greater role in commenting on the specification of future franchises.

### Railways: Tickets

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the charging of administrative fees by rail travel ticket agents when issuing refunds to customers. [172882]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The policy on refunds is set out in the National Rail Conditions of Carriage. The National Rail Conditions of Carriage entitles passengers to a refund on tickets which have not been used, payable in specified circumstances. It also permits administration charges of up to £10.00 to be raised for processing the refund.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effects on the number of road accidents of introducing British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer. [172336]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A Government commissioned report by the Transport Research Laboratory published in October 1998, investigated the effects of the UK adopting single/double summertime (i.e. GMT plus one hour in the winter, from October to March, and GMT plus two hours in the summer, from March to October) thereby making the evenings lighter throughout the year. It concluded that, there could be a net saving of over 400 people killed or seriously injured per year in Great Britain, including over 100 deaths.

The 1998 research did not identify casualty savings by age.

### Sustainable Operations

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department is on course to meet the commitment in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [171978]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* The Department has already achieved the "renewables" target with 62.5 per cent. of electricity being obtained from renewable sources and 10.1 per cent. derived from Combined Heat and Power.

*(b)* The Department has already achieved the waste recycling target with 57.1 per cent. of waste being recycled.

### Transport for London: Underground Railways

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Transport for London (TfL) relating to TfL's bid to take over the London Underground maintenance contracts originally awarded to Metronet. [163475]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Secretary of State has regular discussions with TfL on a range of issues including Metronet.

### West Coast Railway Line: Watford

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons were for setting a timetable for the West Coast Mainline with fewer stops made in Watford. [168692]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** One of the key objectives of the modernisation of the West Coast Main Line is to provide capacity for growth in passenger and freight over the next 30 years with substantially faster and more competitive journey times. Therefore, from the December 2008 timetable change, much greater use will be made of the fast lines with up to 11 trains every hour. This means that only two of these can call at Watford Junction.

The more fast line trains that call at Watford Junction, the lower the frequency that can operate to and from Euston. This would then reduce the benefits to passengers overall of the scheme, because the West Coast Main Line service as a whole would not be able to accommodate the projected demand. As a result of the new timetable, two of the 11 hourly services will call at Watford Junction. Watford Junction passengers are also able to interchange with a range of services at Milton Keynes.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Consultants: Government Departments

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163802]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows the current list of contracts with external consultants that the NIO has and their forecast value for 2007-08 together with the estimated time for completion of the contract and the remaining value after the current year. VAT is only included where this is not reclaimable by the Department under the Contracted-out Services regime for non-business activities.

| *Brief description* | *Number of contracts* | *2007-08 (£000)* | *Length* | *2008-09 (£000)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Accountancy | 1 | [1]15 | Runs to June 08 | [1]5 |
| Recruitment | 1 | [1]35 | Ends in 2007-08 | [1]0 |
| IT Management | 1 | [1]1 | Ends in 2007-08 | [1]0 |
| IT Management | 4 | [1]70 | Ends in 2007-08 | [1]0 |
| IT Management | 1 | [1]45 | Ends in 2007-08 | [1]0 |
| IT Management | 2 | [1]158 | Runs to June 08 | [1]36 |
| IT Management | 5 | 687 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Legislative Drafting | 1 | 80 | Runs to May 2008 | 10 |
| Legislative Drafting | 1 | 16 | Ongoing | 12 |
| Legal Advice | 1 | 35 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Research Project | 1 | 11 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Personnel Management | 1 | 5 | Ongoing | 0 |
| Financial Management | 1 | 5 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Programme Management | 2 | 55 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Programme Management | 1 | 130 | Ongoing | 0 |
| Contracts Advice | 1 | 1 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Programme Management | 2 | 139 | Runs to June 2008 | 33 |
| Public Awareness Campaigns | 3 | 227 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Less Lethal Weapons Advice | 1 | 6 | Being reviewed | 3 |
| Marketing | 1 | 47 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Strategic Management | 1 | 8 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Strategic Management | 1 | 8 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Security Surveys | 1 | 2 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Corporate Governance | 1 | 15 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Accommodation | 1 | 9 | Ends in 2007-08 | 0 |
| Engineering/ Architectural | 1 | 116 | Ends in 2007-08 | 97 |
| Total | 38 | 1,926 | | 196 |

[1] Forecast

## Departmental Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171305]

**Mr. Woodward:** Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

## Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170247]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

## Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167951]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) spent £258,000 on advertising between December 2006 to November 2007.

## Drugs: Belfast

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of possession and supply of illegal drugs in North Belfast in each of the last 10 years. [170496]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table shows the number of persons charged with possession and supply offences in North Belfast from 2002-03 until 2006-07. PSNI has advised that figures for persons charged in the years prior to 2002-03 are not readily accessible.

*Number of persons charged with possession and supply of illegal drugs in North Belfast for the years 2002-07*

| | *Persons charged—possession offences* | *Persons charged—supply offences* | *Total number of persons charged*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 64 | 15 | 70 |
| 2003-04 | 69 | 13 | 75 |
| 2004-05 | 79 | 19 | 93 |
| 2005-06 | 98 | 14 | 103 |
| 2006-07 | 122 | 42 | 147 |

[1] Persons can be charged for both a possession and a supply offence.

Figures detailing the number of persons charged and the number convicted are collected separately. It is not possible to reconcile charge based data from PSNI with prosecution and conviction data, since data on charges from PSNI relate to the number of offences, whereas data on prosecutions and convictions relate to the number of offenders brought before the courts.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted of possession and supply offences in North Belfast from 2000-05. Prior to this, prosecution and conviction data were based on the police division to which an offence was reported, and are therefore not directly comparable.

*Number of persons convicted of possession and supply of illegal drugs in North Belfast for the years 2000-05*

| | *Persons convicted of possession of illegal drugs* | *Persons convicted of supply[1] of illegal drugs* | *Persons convicted of possession with intent to supply illegal drugs* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 37 | 2 | 29 |
| 2001 | 26 | 0 | 10 |
| 2002 | 27 | 3 | 13 |
| 2003 | 44 | 2 | 11 |
| 2004 | 37 | 0 | 6 |
| 2005 | 46 | 0 | 5 |

[1] Includes being concerned in supply/offering to supply a controlled drug.

## Motor Vehicles: Theft

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles were stolen in North Belfast in each of the last 10 years. [170494]

**Paul Goggins:** Due to the introduction in 1998-99 of revised rules for recording crime, figures for the years prior to 1998 are not available.

The number of recorded thefts or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles in North Belfast District Command Unit is shown in the following table.

| | *Recorded* |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 897 |
| 1999-2000 | 916 |
| 2000-01[1] | 1,023 |
| 2001-02 | 1,248 |
| 2002-03[2] | 882 |
| 2003-04 | 568 |
| 2004-05 | 498 |
| 2005-06 | 344 |
| 2006-07 | 347 |

[1] Figures are available by District Command Unit back to 2000-01. The figures for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 have been aggregated by station area to produce totals for North Belfast DCU, however they are not completely comparable with later years due to boundary changes.

[2] From 1 April 2002 most attempted thefts/unauthorised taking of motor vehicles are recorded as vehicle interference due to a change in Home Office counting rules.

## Police Service of Northern Ireland: Annual Reports

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness, *(b)* efficiency and *(c)* value for money of the distribution of the Police Service of Northern Ireland Chief Constable's Annual Report to households in Northern Ireland. [170488]

**Paul Goggins:** In August 2006 PSNI commissioned a survey to evaluate the level of awareness and readership of the Chief Constable's Annual Report. Of those who had read the report, 78 per cent. stated that it provided them with a clearer understanding of the work of the police service.

The total cost of the exercise is approximately £120,000 per year; this represents around 16 pence per household.

The Chief Constable's Annual Report is delivered to every home in Northern Ireland and is also available on the Internet. It is an important aspect of PSNI's outreach and engagement with the community. The Northern Ireland Policing Board is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the police, however I am content that distributing the report in this way is a valuable exercise and represents value for money.

## Police Service of Northern Ireland: Garda Siochana

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of the Garda Siochana were *(a)* seconded and *(b)* transferred to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each year since 2005, broken down by (i) rank and (ii) sex. [170489]

**Paul Goggins:** I am advised that to date no An Garda Siochana officers have been seconded or transferred to PSNI.

However, since October 2005, 12 An Garda Siochana officers have been on personnel exchanges, for periods of between two and four months, under the auspices of the joint protocols signed by the Garda Commissioner and Chief Constable on 21 February 2005.

Close co-operation between the PSNI and An Garda Siochana continues across a range of areas including human resources, traffic, IT, internal communications, roads, community safety, training, fraud, drugs and immigration.

## Terrorism

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many paramilitary-style assaults took place in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by group deemed responsible. [172103]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table details the information requested.

*Casualties as a result of paramilitary style assaults*

| | *Attribution[1]* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Loyalist* | *Republican* |
| *2006* | | |
| November | 2 | 0 |
| December | 1 | 0 |
| *2007* | | |
| January | 3 | 1 |
| February | 6 | 0 |
| March | 6 | 0 |
| April | 2 | 0 |
| May | 0 | 1 |
| June | 0 | 1 |

*Casualties as a result of paramilitary style assaults*

| | Attribution[1] | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Loyalist* | *Republican* |
| July | 2 | 0 |
| August | 3 | 1 |
| September | 0 | 0 |
| October | 9 | 2 |

[1] Attribution is as perceived by PSNI based on the information available and does not necessarily indicate the involvement of a paramilitary organisation. *Note:* 2007-08 statistics are provisional and may be subject to minor amendment. *Source:* Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Lisnasharragh.

The Government continue to work through and with the political parties to create the conditions that will make such assaults a thing of the past. The PSNI, which has the support of all parties in Northern Ireland, will continue to investigate all such incidents and where sufficient evidence exists will bring those responsible to justice.

### Vetting

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what additional resources have been deployed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland to expedite the progress of applications submitted to the Child Vulnerable Adult Access Vetting Unit. [170454]

**Paul Goggins:** The PSNI is committed to providing a high quality vetting service ensuring the protection of those most vulnerable in society.

The PSNI has deployed additional resources to address the current heavy workload. Since summer 2007 seven extra staff have been employed by the unit and staff have worked overtime to manage the increasing workload. Working practices are under review to ensure that available resources are used to best effect.

A new criminal history disclosure body, Access N.I., will replace the Criminal Records Office service from early 2008. This new service will bring Northern Ireland under the same legislation as the rest of the United Kingdom and will create a platform for the development of new national systems.

## SCOTLAND

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171445]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office's expenditure on Christmas cards is detailed in the table as follows.

| | *Christmas cards (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 679 |
| 2004 | 687 |
| 2005 | 567.74 |
| 2006 | 702.65 |
| 2007 | 0 |

The Scotland Office has not incurred any expenditure in relation to Christmas parties in the last five years. We do not have separate records for expenditure in relation to Christmas decorations.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168603]

**David Cairns:** None.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if his Department will undertake a review of its compliance with data protection laws; [168075]

(2) on how many occasions in his Department confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before their transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168262]

(3) how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disk; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of his Department has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases was. [168282]

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168740]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169386]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence; [170216]

(2) how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170246]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168817]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168832]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167949]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 691W.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Land Use

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated annual administration costs associated with the Rural Payments Agency's practice of resizing fields are. [166699]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]*: Annual administration costs specifically relating to resizing fields (changes to area) cannot be separated from other costs related to the Rural Land Register (RLR). Costs for RLR-related work including all digitising work and RLR support staff were £4.26 million in 2006-07. Estimated costs for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are £3.34 million and £2.69 million respectively. These figures do not include possible further developments of the land register to meet European and business requirements.

### Angling: Scottish Executive

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to discuss changes to the main concordat with the Scottish Executive on fishing; and if he will make a statement. [172026]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have no such plans, nor have I received any representations from the Scottish Executive to change the fisheries specific concordat.

### Animals: Diseases

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which pathogens handled under Specified Animal Pathogens Order licence in the UK for viruses and diseases are not normally present in British livestock; and if he will make a statement; [170867]

(2) what the benefits to the UK are of handling pathogens under SAPO licence for viruses and diseases that are not normally present in British livestock; and if he will make a statement. [170868]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The UK is vulnerable to the introduction of exotic animal disease as global trade in animals and animal products increases. Despite sophisticated systems of import control, we cannot hope to reduce the risk of introduction of disease to zero. Climate change and the threat of bio-terrorism also present new means by which animal disease could be introduced to this country. We must therefore ensure we can prepare for, and react quickly to, all disease outbreaks.

The Government's ability to respond to outbreaks of exotic animal disease depends on having ready access to specialist facilities where diseases can be diagnosed quickly and with confidence, and where research is carried out on animal pathogens and the mechanisms to deal with disease outbreaks. This was highlighted by the pressure put on existing facilities during the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak in the UK. At least some of this work must be done in a facility with high bio-containment capability.

DEFRA has issued licences to a number of laboratories to hold category 3 and 4 viruses. Details of specific viruses which laboratories have licences for cannot be divulged as they are commercially confidential.

### Animals: Vaccination

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Agriculture and Fisheries Council held in Luxembourg on 22 to 23 October 2007 and the discussions on the animal health strategy, what plans he has to review the UK Government's vaccine policy; and if he will make a statement. [170949]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government keep their vaccination policy for all notifiable diseases under constant review, taking full account of the latest scientific evidence, lessons learnt from outbreaks and the desirability of harmonising approaches to vaccination with other member states.

For example, in recent years we have substantially developed vaccination policy for foot and mouth disease and avian influenza, in line with developments in EU law, through procuring a vaccine bank and developing contingency plans for its potential use. We are currently doing the same on vaccination policy for bluetongue.

### Avian Influenza: Disease Control

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from cage bird societies and other organisations forced to cancel events because show licences were revoked as a result of the outbreak of avian flu; what compensation is available to organisers of cage bird show events in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [170285]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA officials and I have received a small number of representations from cage bird societies and other organisations who have been forced to cancel events as a result of the ban on bird gatherings following the recent avian influenza outbreak. We put the ban in place due to the high risk nature of bird gatherings when there is great uncertainty over the presence of undetected infection in other parts of the country immediately after an outbreak. We kept this ban under constant review and, following a veterinary risk assessment once we knew more about the spread of disease, we lifted the ban after 11 days.

It is a long established principle that the Government do not meet the costs of consequential losses due to disease control measures. It is inevitable that such measures for avian influenza will disrupt bird gatherings due to the need to prevent wide-scale disease spread for both animal and human health reasons. No Government could commit itself to insure bird keepers against the cost of all the losses resulting, directly or indirectly, from disease outbreaks or the action taken to deal with them.

### Beaches: EU Law

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on improvements to sewerage infrastructure to improve bathing water quality in each of the last seven years. [170431]

**Mr. Woolas:** Between 2000 and 2005, Ofwat collected data on costs for the improvements to continuous discharges (improvement to the processes at sewage treatment works themselves); under the bathing water directive. From 2005 to 2010, Ofwat is collecting the data on costs incurred to improve intermittent discharges, such as combined sewer overflows, as well as the continuous discharges that have been, and will be, improved under the bathing water directive.

This information is displayed in the following table.

| | | | | | | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Total by 2006-07* |
| Capex: Continuous discharges—bathing water directive | 11.1 | 27.9 | 52.3 | 21.5 | 12.8 | — | — | — |
| Opex: Continuous discharges—bathing water directive | 0.9 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 3.3 | 4.3 | — | — | — |
| Capex: Continuous and intermittent discharges—bathing water directive | — | — | — | — | — | 8.8 | 2.8 | — |
| Opex: Continuous and intermittent discharges—bathing water directive | — | — | — | — | — | 0.1 | 0.11 | — |
| Total | 12.0 | 29.2 | 54.4 | 24.8 | 17.1 | 8.8 | 2.9 | [1]149.04 |

[1] The totals may not equal the sum of the figure shown due to rounding.

*Notes:*

1. All costs are displayed in 2006-07 price base inflated by retail price index.
2. Capex = capital expenditure; Opex = operating expenditure.
3. Recurring opex incurred as a result of improvements in 2000-05, will have been transferred to base service at the last periodic review.
4. All costs displayed are in £ millions and in 2006-07 prices.
5. The data shown are additional costs incurred over and above the maintenance of the assets.

### Carbon Emissions: Heating

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has considered the contribution of heating networks towards the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. [169733]

**Mr. Woolas:** The draft Order for the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target was laid before Parliament on 5 December. The Government propose an overall target of 154 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$) lifetime, which is equivalent to annual net savings of 4.2 MtC02 by 2010 and broadly double the level of activity of the current Energy Efficiency Commitment 2005-08. Subject to approval by the regulator, Ofgem, it will be open to energy suppliers to promote district heating systems and combined heat and power (CHP), including biomass CHP.

### Criminal Justice Act 2003

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the commencement of section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003; and if he will make a statement; [170922]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Home Affairs on the sentence for persons convicted of cruelty crimes, specified in the Animal Welfare Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [170923]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We regularly review the implementation of the maximum sentences available under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 with the Ministry of Justice.

### Crops: Subsidies

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average level of annual subsidy from the public purse per hectare for growing *(a)* wheat, *(b)* barley, *(c)* potatoes and *(d)* miscanthus grass was in the latest period for which figures are available. [170198]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The introduction of the single payment scheme in 2005 decoupled support from production. There are now no specific payments for growing cereals or potatoes.

The average payment per hectare for the single payment scheme 2006 in England was £163. This is a simple average obtained by dividing the net amount payable by the total area on agricultural holdings in June 2006. There will have been wide variations between farms and within the same farm type. This payment was decoupled from production and was not dependent on any production taking place on farm.

The England Rural Development Programme's (ERDP) Energy Crops Scheme offers grants to farmers in England for the establishment of miscanthus and short rotation coppice. The scheme is currently awaiting approval from the EU Commission but the rate for miscanthus is expected to be £800 per hectare.

Growers of crops used for the production of energy, including rapeseed, wheat, barley, short rotation coppice and miscanthus, may also be eligible for aid under the Aid for Energy Crops (AEC) Scheme. After scaleback due to the area claimed being greater than the maximum guaranteed area, claimants will receive a maximum payment of €31.65 per hectare for the eligible land on which they made a claim for AEC in 2007. The predominant crop in 2007 was oilseed rape.

### Dairy Farming: Finance

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of his Department's annual budget was allocated to dairy farming in each of the last three years. [171023]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are no DEFRA grants that are specifically allocated to dairy farming. However, dairy farmers and the dairy industry benefit from a range of DEFRA-funded activity.

These include: the single payment scheme (SPS); the England Rural Development programme (ERDP) and its successor the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE); the England catchment sensitive farming delivery initiative (ECSFDI); the agricultural development scheme (ADS); environmentally sensitive farming (ESF); top-up to the school milk subsidy scheme (SMS); Organic Conversion Information Service (OCIS); and the dairy supply chain forum (DSCF).

Figures for the budget allocation (NB: though actual resource spend for ERDP) to each of the schemes is highlighted in the following table:

| *Scheme* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| SPS[1] (£ billion) | n/a | 1.55 | 1.57 |
| ERDP/RDPE (£ million) | 250.3 | 273.5 | 335.1 |
| ECSFDI[2] (£ million) | n/a | n/a | 8.6 |
| ADS (£ million) | 2.50 | 2.80 | 3.10 |
| ESF[2] (£000) | n/a | 833 | 833 |
| SMS (£000) | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| OCIS (£000) | 311 | 311 | 311 |
| DSCF (£000) | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[1] Figures for SPS are net of modulation.

[2] Note that the ESF and ECSFDI were launched in 2005 and 2006 respectively so expenditure was not incurred in previous years.

We do not maintain records which would enable us to readily identify specific sectors benefiting from these activities.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166655]

**Jonathan Shaw:** From information held centrally, the percentages of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products of imported origin used in the departmental headquarters were 0 per cent., 0 per cent. and 0 per cent. respectively and for dairy products 0 per cent. (eggs and milk) and 5 per cent. (cheese).

I refer the hon. Member to the data published in the report deposited in the House of Commons Library on 8 November 2007 giving the proportion of UK produce supplied to Government Departments, the NHS and HM Prison Service. A copy of the report is also available on the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) website at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/govt-food-usage.pdf.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168596]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following figures show the number of reported thefts/losses of computers/laptops in DEFRA during 2007:

*Item description*

(*a*) Computers/desk tops—none

(*b*) Laptops—18

Following the outsourcing of IT services to IBM in October 2004, computers/laptops are no longer classed as departmental assets as they form part of the overall contract for the provision of IT services. All IT equipment therefore belongs to IBM. However, in an effort to reduce the losses of laptops, advice and guidance on the security of portable computer equipment is regularly issued to users.

### Departmental Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171315]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Any hospitality that I may have accepted in the last 12 months has been declared in the Register of Members' Interests.

### Departmental Disabled

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which buildings occupied by his Department (*a*) are and (*b*) are not fully accessible to people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [163952]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No central data are held of the number of buildings occupied by my Department, which are or are not considered to be fully accessible to disabled people.

Where there are access difficulties for disabled people, my Department makes appropriate reasonable adjustments to it's arrangements for the recruitment and employment of staff, and the services and functions it delivers to its users in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1005.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is (*a*) selling, (*b*) leasing and (*c*) intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the (A) size and (B) name of each relevant site is. [168852]

**Jonathan Shaw:** A statement of the Department's surplus land and properties currently available for sale and to let, included known future disposals, is set out in the table.

*Property details*

| *Property no.* | *Property name* | *Town* | *Postcode* | *Tenure* | *NIA (Sq m)* | *Land (Ha)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 54 | Thirsk (Sowerby) Buffer Depot | Thirsk | YO7 1QX | Freehold | — | 1.1 |
| 62 | Almondbank 4 | Perth | PH1 3HY | Freehold | — | 8.9 |
| 63 | Almondbank 5 | Perth | PH1 3HY | Freehold | — | 5.6 |
| 93 | Fish Labs, Rememberance Ave. | Burnham-on-Crouch | CM0 8HA | Leasehold | — | 0.55 |
| 94 | Laboratory Complex Pakefield Road | Lowestoft | NR33 0HT | Leasehold | — | 1.21 |
| 146 | Guildford, Epsom Road | Guildford | GU1 2LD | Freehold | — | 4.92 |
| 272 | Longbenton VIC-surplus land | Newcastle | NE12 9SE | Freehold | — | 2.1 |
| 302 | Efford Plot (0.1 ha) | Lymington | SO41 0JD | Freehold | — | 0.1 |
| 302 | Efford Paddock (0.25 ha) | Lymington | SO41 0JD | Freehold | — | 0.25 |
| 302 | Efford Sewerage Treatment Works | Lymington | SO41 0JD | Freehold | — | 0.01 |
| 309 | Boxworth Farm | Boxworth | CB3 8NN | Freehold | — | 326 |
| 317 | Terrington (Land) | Kings Lynn | PE34 4PW | Freehold | — | 1.6 |
| 321 | Ditton Laboratory | West Malling | ME19 6BJ | Freehold | — | 1 |
| 340 | Dargues (Land) | Otterburn | NE19 1SB | Freehold | — | 21.86 |

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what (*a*) percentage and (*b*) amount his Department has required each of the public bodies for which he is responsible to reduce its budget for 2007-08 from the level planned at the beginning of the financial year; what options he is considering for further savings in public expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [167179]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My Department has not required any of the public bodies for which the Department is responsible to reduce budgets for 2007-08 since these were set at the beginning of the financial year.

Budgets for 2008-09 are currently being considered by Ministers with the aim of being finalised in the new year.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171340]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007.

Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Domestic Wastes: Packaging

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* proportion and *(b)* tonnage of waste from household collection which is made up of packaging waste; [170536]

(2) what estimate he has made of the tonnage of packaging waste from household collection which is *(a)* recovered and *(b)* recycled annually; and if he will make a statement. [170537]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* 4.7 million tonnes of packaging ended up as household waste in the UK in 2006. This accounts for an estimated 18 to 21 per cent. of household waste.

No estimate has been made by my Department on the tonnage of packaging waste which is recovered or recycled specifically from household sources.

However, the total amount of packaging waste recovered and recycled in 2006 was around 6.3 million tonnes.

### Energy: Conservation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what has been the total level of expenditure on his Department's market transformation programme since its inception. [169936]

**Joan Ruddock:** Since DEFRA was formed in 2001, it has provided just over £13.5 million to its Market Transformation Programme over the seven years between 2001 and 2007. Annual expenditure levels are set out in the following table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 520,000 |
| 2002-03 | 812,000 |
| 2003-04 | 1,200,000 |
| 2004-05 | 2,139,000 |
| 2005-06 | 4,270,000 |
| 2006-07 | 4,600,000 |

### Environment Protection

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 120W, on environment protection, if he will break down the Environment Agency's maintenance expenditure on activities other than dredging, aquatic weed removal, grass cutting, tree removal and pollarding. [171707]

**Mr. Woolas:** In 2006-07 the proportion of the Environment Agency's flood risk management maintenance expenditure on activities other than dredging, aquatic weed removal, grass cutting, tree removal and pollarding was as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Obstruction removal | 8.6 |
| Structure maintenance | 18.7 |
| Channel/defence maintenance | 10.2 |
| Operational and asset inspections | 11.6 |
| Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Automation and Control | 7.2 |
| Buildings maintenance | 1.1 |
| Asset monitoring, operation and repair | 7.4 |
| Other | 4.6 |

### Environment Protection: Lighting

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to promote the use of energy saving light bulbs. [171835]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* The number of efficient light bulbs in UK homes rose from 26 million in 2000, to 110 million in 2006. However, we recognise that more can be done to encourage their use.

We are working with retailers, manufacturers, energy suppliers and the Energy Saving Trust, to voluntarily phase out inefficient light bulbs by 2011 in the UK, ahead of our European partners.

This is supported by the "EU Energy" and "Energy Saving Recommended" labels, which provide consumers with appropriate information on the energy efficiency of products.

Replacing bulbs with energy efficient alternatives will save up to 5 million tonnes of $CO_2$ from electricity generation per year by 2012 and will also help reduce householders' energy bills.

### Fish: Animal Welfare

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Marine Bill will include provisions to improve the welfare of fish caught for human consumption. [171100]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are no plans for the Marine Bill to include provisions on the welfare of fish caught for human consumption.

### Fisheries: Navy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution he receives from the devolved administrations on the costs of the contract for the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Service; and if he will make a statement. [170913]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Royal Navy provides fisheries protection services to the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) in the waters around England and Wales. The cost of the provision of this service is borne by the MFA. The Welsh Assembly Government contribute 6 per cent. of the overall cost by a PES transfer to the

MFA. There are no other contributions from the devolved administrations for this service.

Neither the Welsh Assembly nor the Northern Ireland Assembly received separate funding for this service upon devolution, and therefore make no contribution to the resources used on the MFA's behalf by the Royal Navy.

The Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA), an Agency of the Scottish Executive, provides fishery protection services to the Scottish Executive in the waters around Scotland. The SFPA operates its own patrol vessels. As the SFPA does not use the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron, it makes no contributions to the cost of the Squadron.

### Fisheries: Quotas

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the timing of its proposals on managing Scottish quota; and if he will make a statement. [172040]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have yet to receive a formal proposal from the Scottish Executive regarding managing the UK quota in Scotland, and have had no recent discussions with my counterparts in the devolved administrations on the timing of such a proposal.

### Fisheries: Regional Advisory Councils

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding he plans to give to *(a)* the North Sea Regional Advisory Council, *(b)* the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council, *(c)* the Pelagic Regional Advisory Council and *(d)* the Long Distance Regional Advisory Council in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [170901]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 11 July 2007, Council Regulation 2004/585 was introduced to simplify the funding arrangements for all regional advisory councils in order to provide them with sufficient and permanent funding to allow them to continue their advisory role within the Common Fisheries Policy. Under these new funding arrangements, the Commission's allocated grant "shall not exceed 90 per cent. of the operating budget" of each regional advisory council, on an annual basis.

In addition, the UK and other member states contribute an annual membership, which varies from year to year. For the financial year of 2007-08 the UK membership is:

*(a)* 2,450 Euros to the North Sea RAC;

*(b)* 3,700 Euros to the North-Western Waters RAC;

*(c)* 2,222 Euros to the Pelagic RAC.

The Long Distance RAC has been established recently and the UK membership contribution has yet to be agreed.

In 2008, the Commission intends to review the function of regional advisory councils and that may include funding provisions.

### Fisheries: Regulation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research on attitudes to regulation and compliance in the English seafood industry. [172052]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government currently have no plans to commission research on attitudes to regulation and compliance in the English seafood industry.

### Fisheries: Science

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he intends to spend on *(a)* fisheries science and *(b)* the science fisheries partnership in the next comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [173017]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No final decisions about the budget for the first of the comprehensive spending review years has been taken so we do not have the level of detail requested.

However in 2007-08 we are spending approximately £13.5 million on fisheries science. This includes £1 million on the Fisheries Science Partnership and £3 million on long-term research and development projects.

### Fisheries: Subsidies

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made on finalising the draft operational programme on the Fisheries Fund for submission to the European Commission; and when he expects it to be submitted. [173027]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I intend to submit the UK operational programme to the European Commission following a public consultation on the draft. This will be a 12-week consultation which I expect to commence early in 2008.

Agreement has now been reached between all UK Fisheries Ministers regarding the division of the UK European Fisheries Fund budget. DEFRA officials are working with their counterparts in the devolved administrations to complete the UK operational programme, in order to enable the consultation to take place.

### Flood Control

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the Government's commitment in the Statement of Principles with Insurance Industries to *(a)* reduce the annual probability of flooding each year for a substantial number of properties in the UK, *(b)* maintain investment in flood management each year, *(c)* implement reforms to the land-use planning system to ensure that new developments do not lead to an increase in the national or local flood risk, *(d)* communicate flood risk effectively and *(e)* develop an integrated approach to urban drainage that alleviates the risks of sewer flooding and flash flooding. [171154]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Association of British Insurers' Statement of Principles sets out members' commitments on availability of flood insurance in association with Government commitments on effective management of flood risk.

*(a)* A full programme of Government-funded works across the country is currently forecast to considerably exceed the Spending Review target to improve protection from river flooding and coastal erosion for more than 100,000 households between 2005 and 2008. Our investment is making real improvements possible across the country but, regardless of future levels of funding, it would be unrealistic to expect the Government to address all flood and coastal erosion risk problems.

*(b)* Spending on flood and coastal erosion risk management across central and local government has increased from £307 million in 1996-97 to some £600 million this year and will increase further to a minimum of £650 million in 2008-09, £700 million in 2009-10, reaching £800 million in 2010-11. This represents a significant real terms increase.

*(c)* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my colleague the Minister for Housing on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 673W, as this is a matter for the Department for Communities and Local Government.

*(d)* Flood risk mapping is an important part of the Government's strategy on public awareness. DEFRA funds the Environment Agency to map flood risk as part of our strategy to ensure that the risk from flooding is better understood by all concerned. The Environment Agency continues to improve the flood mapping available to the public, local planning authorities, the emergency services and insurers.

*(e)* The Government's developing strategy to improve flood risk management, "Making space for water", seeks to identify improvements in urban flood risk management where there is a complex interaction of drainage systems and a number of different organisations involved. As part of this, DEFRA is funding 15 pilots in different locations around the country to test new approaches to urban drainage management and clarify responsibilities. We are also developing proposals for how the current range of responsibilities for urban flood risk should be managed and the role of the Environment Agency in this.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the collation of groundwater flooding records, and monitoring and risk assessment, as referred to in Making Space for Water. [171156]

**Mr. Woolas:** Recommendations from the Making Space for Water project (MSfW) 'Groundwater flooding records collation, monitoring and risk assessment' are being considered at MSfW programme level, with other related work.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures have been introduced to encourage people to take up resilience measures in their homes. [171158]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency publishes helpful information on its website on resilience and resistance measures.

In conjunction with the Association of British Insurers, we are working to develop ways in which the public can be encouraged to incorporate appropriate flood resilience or resistance measures in their homes and businesses. We are also undertaking a £500,000 pilot scheme looking at the feasibility of providing financial assistance for people to install such measures. In May we published a technical report which described in broad terms the suitability and cost effectiveness of a variety of measures such as temporary flood gates, water resistant floors and wall coverings.

### Flood Control: Video Games

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided for the development of Discovery Software's Flood Ranger programme. [171625]

**Mr. Woolas:** No funding has been provided by my Department. The cost of developing this software, c£25,000, was met by the former Department for Trade and Industry through its Office of Science and Technology's Foresight Programme.

### Floods

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures the Department uses to assess the effectiveness of flood proofing measures used on *(a)* private homes and *(b)* business properties. [171729]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency is the principal operating authority for flood risk management in England and supports the Kitemark scheme of certified flood products as they have been independently tested and proved fit for purpose. Details of the scheme and a list of certified products are available on its website. The Environment Agency does not endorse any individual product or manufacturer.

### Floods: Infrastructure

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of critical infrastructure is situated in flood risk areas; and what proposals he has to ensure the future safety of this infrastructure. [170519]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency has identified nearly 5,000 sites in areas in England and Wales assessed by the agency as having an annual probability of flooding of 1 in 75 or greater.

The 14 categories of assets include power stations, sewage and water treatment works and schools. On the data currently available, the Environment Agency identifies 12.2 per cent. of these as being situated within the extreme flood outline.

### Fly-tipping: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly tipping were recorded in each London borough in each year since 1998; and what the estimated cost was of dealing with these incidents in each borough in each year. [172493]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library of the House showing the number of fly-tipping incidents and prosecutions recorded in each local authority by local authorities on Flycapture for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. Data are only available from 2004 onwards.

Following the release of the 2006-07 Flycapture statistics on 9 October 2007, this information has been sent to all MPs and has been placed in the Printed Paper Office.

It is also available to download electronically on DEFRA's Flycapture website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

### Food from Britain: Finance

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the budget allocated for Food for Britain has been in each year since its creation. [169935]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows the grants receivable by Food from Britain (FFB) from MAFF/DEFRA in each year since FFB was created in 1983. Information on FFB's total income and expenditure in these years can be found in its annual report and accounts, copies of which have been laid before Parliament.

| *Financial year* | *Core grant in aid* | *Grant in aid for capital expenditure* | *Other MAFF/DEFRA grant* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1983-84 | 3,876,002 | 145,477 | n/a |
| 1984-85 | 5,433,422 | 89,452 | n/a |
| 1985-86 | 5,410,696 | 50,036 | n/a |
| 1986-87 | 4,786,825 | 53,214 | n/a |
| 1987-88 | 3,664,965 | 139,412 | n/a |
| 1988-89 | 4,056,849 | 129,555 | n/a |
| 1989-90 | 4,702,042 | 81,759 | n/a |
| 1990-91 | 4,025,497 | 88,719 | n/a |
| 1991-92 | 4,691,329 | 30,403 | n/a |
| 1992-93 | 4,648,519 | 88,092 | n/a |
| 1993-94 | 4,915,850 | 27,875 | n/a |
| 1994-95 | 4,953,300 | 143,699 | n/a |
| 1995-96 | 5,431,410 | 81,020 | n/a |
| 1996-97 | 5,274,478 | 28,616 | n/a |
| 1997-98 | 4,772,550 | 58,380 | [1]300,000 |
| 1998-99 | 4,927,000 | 67,917 | [1]313,000 plus [2]355,000 |
| 1999-2000 | 4,968,000 | 73,084 | [1]405,000 plus [2]18,000 |
| 2000-01 | 5,392,000 | 30,663 | [1]150,000 plus [2]10,000 |
| 2001-02 | 5,368,000 | 55,999 | [3]2,500,000 |
| 2002-03 | 5,368,000 | 34,602 | [3]500,000 |
| 2003-04 | 5,368,000 | 45,955 | [4]1,000,000 |
| 2004-05 | 5,368,000 | 59,472 | [4]1,000,000 |
| 2005-06 | 5,368,000 | 51,642 | [4]1,000,000 |
| 2006-07 | 4,965,400 | 48,695 | [4]1,000,000 |
| 2007-08 | 4,965,400 | 60,000 | [4]1,000,000 |

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[1] Sector Challenge funding

[2] Exceptional additional MAFF funding

[3] Foot and mouth recovery funding

[4] Additional funding to support implementation of DEFRA's English Regional Food Strategy, initially agreed for the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 and subsequently extended for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

*Note:*

Figures exclude grants paid to Food from Britain by the Countryside Agency in the years 2001-02 to 2002-03 to fund specific activities carried out by Regional Food Groups.

*Source:*

1983-84 to 2006-07—Food from Britain Annual Report and Accounts

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the likely effects on the UK economy are of producing foot and mouth disease vaccine in Britain; and if he will make a statement; [170865]

(2) if he will re-examine the merits of producing foot and mouth disease vaccine in the UK. [170866]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has not made an assessment of the financial merits to the economy of producing foot and mouth disease (FMD) vaccine in the UK. However, having a readily available stock of FMD vaccine is of clear benefit in terms of ensuring timely access to vaccine in the event of an outbreak.

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Farmers

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support is being provided to farmers within the foot and mouth disease restriction areas. [164395]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 8 October, DEFRA announced a package of assistance worth £12.5 million aimed at supporting those livestock farmers in England most severely affected by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD), including those in the restriction areas. Implementation of all elements of the package is well under way and some are almost completed.

£8.5 million was allocated to provide support for our hill farmers. Approximately £8.3 million has now been paid out. The rest of the payments are expected to be made by the end of December.

£1 million was allocated to raise the level of subsidy from 10 per cent. to 100 per cent. for the National Fallen Stock Scheme for farmers in the FMD Restricted Zone while it was in place. This scheme closed when the Restricted Zone was lifted on 19 November.

£2 million was to promote the sales of lamb, beef and pork domestically and in our export markets. The first payment of £250,000 has been made. Lamb promotion activity has begun and additional beef promotion will start later this month. The demand for lamb from European partners is proving strong. Preparatory work has started for promoting third country exports of pork once we have regained World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) freedom, and additional domestic pork promotion will start in January.

A donation of £1 million was made to the Arthur Rank Centre for disbursement to Farming Help charities, which provide advice and practical and emotional support to farming families. £500,000 has already been transferred.

All domestic control restrictions have now been lifted, and the only restrictions remaining in place are those placed on movements to ensure eligibility for export to the EU.

### Game

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the proportion of shot game which is released to the black market and (ii) the proportion of shot game in respect of which income tax is declared. [172621]

**Joan Ruddock:** My Department has not conducted research on these matters.

### Game: Birds

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the gamebird shooting industry on *(a)* the killing of indigenous mammals and birds, *(b)* damage to moorland peat deposits and *(c)* burning of heather; and if he will make a statement. [170284]

**Joan Ruddock:** The gamebird shooting industry involves the shooting of the native grey partridge and red grouse in addition to non-native gamebirds such as red-legged partridge and pheasant. These populations are managed for shooting and there is no evidence to suggest that shooting has resulted in population declines. In order to enhance gamebird populations, a range of native birds and mammals are killed legally as part of pest control campaigns. These species are generalist predators, including foxes, stoats, weasels, carrion crows and magpies. There is no evidence to suggest that this has an adverse affect on populations of these species, although little information is available on which to assess the impacts of killing stoats and weasels. The illegal persecution of native birds of prey, especially for the threatened hen harrier in England, has been associated with game rearing interests and remains a serious problem.

Natural England is working to establish management agreements with landowners and managers, including those associated with the game industry (especially on sites of special scientific interest), to restore peatlands by the blocking of drains and agreement of burning plans. In addition, DEFRA has recently set up a policy project to coordinate the Government's work on peat. This aims to protect and enhance peat under all forms of management. As a part of this work, we plan to commission research to assess the environmental impacts of peatland management.

We are aware of the potential for damage of unregulated or poorly practised burning. This is why we introduced the Heather and Grass etc. Burning (England) Regulations 2007. The regulations protect people, property and the natural environment, and introduce new rules to safeguard carbon-rich soils. In addition, we have published the Heather and Grass Burning Code 2007. The regulations and the code have the support of Natural England and key stakeholders, including the National Farmers' Union and the Moorland Association.

### Heathrow Airport

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings he had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the expansion of Heathrow airport before the publication of responses to the consultation on the subject. [171801]

**Mr. Woolas:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) met the Secretary of State for Transport in September when, among other things, the expansion of Heathrow airport was discussed. This issue has also been discussed during the general course of Cabinet business.

### Housing: Insurance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent representations he has received on insurance industries offering home insurance to new developments built against Environment Agency advice; [172069]

(2) what recent discussions he has held with the insurance industry on the affordability of insurance for properties at risk of flooding. [172071]

**Mr. Woolas:** There is a continuing dialogue with the Environment Agency, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Association of British Insurers on this issue with the aim of ensuring widespread availability of insurance cover for flooding.

I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave her on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 14W.

### Inland Waterways: Finance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the likely effect of funding reductions for inland waterways on tourism; and if he will make a statement. [171965]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have received correspondence from a wide range of stakeholders regarding the funding of British Waterways, and its public benefits.

### Laboratories: Disease Control

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Agriculture and Fisheries Council held in Luxembourg on 22 and 23 October 2007 and the discussions on the animal health strategy (1) what steps he is taking to ensure improvements in biosecurity in laboratories; and if he will make a statement; [170883]

(2) whether he discussed with his European counterparts biosecurity at the Pirbright site; and if he will make a statement. [170884]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We are keeping in close contact with the European Commission on these issues.

Stringent new conditions have been applied to work undertaken on the Pirbright site, and a safety alert was issued to all similar laboratories immediately following the August outbreak. A follow-up round of inspections has been taking place jointly with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Additionally, we accepted all recommendations that apply to the Government contained in the HSE and Spratt reports. These measures will ensure the highest level of biosecurity both at Pirbright and at all other laboratories working with specified animal pathogens.

Following the incident announced by DEFRA on 22 November, Merial's Specified Animal Pathogens Order licence was suspended. The incident was contained in the enclosed, re-lined drainage system, and there was no release of virus to the environment. An inspection team has produced a full report for the acting chief veterinary officer.

## Livestock: Agricultural Shows

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department provides to livestock show judges on the avoidance of contamination on clothing. [170292]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Livestock shows must be licensed by DEFRA and each show must have a biosecurity officer to assist the licensee in ensuring the rules of the licence and the Animal Gatherings legislation are followed.

DEFRA has issued specific guidance to show organisers and their biosecurity officers for implementing the biosecurity conditions of the show's licence and the legislation, which are their responsibility. The guidance is available from the DEFRA website.

Judges at livestock shows, as well as owners of animals and stockmen, should understand all the biosecurity rules, including those for clean clothing and personal biosecurity when leaving the area to which animals have access.

## Merial Animal Health: Pirbright

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* economic and *(b)* other factors he took into account in granting licences to produce vaccines to Merial at Pirbright. [170612]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Specified Animal Pathogen Order (SAPO) licenses are only granted if the laboratory can demonstrate that they have the necessary management processes, trained staff, documented operating procedures and facilities to ensure the safe containment, handling and disposal of the specified animal pathogens concerned. Laboratory inspections are carried out to assess this, and economic factors are not a consideration.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 22 November 2007: Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) Licence Conditions at Merial Animal Health, whether the valves on the steam lines used to sterilise the associated pipework were inspected by his Department's officials prior to restoring the SAPO licence to Merial Animal Health on 6 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [170869]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The facility was inspected prior to restoring the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) licence on 6 November. Following inspections and documentary evidence from Merial, we were satisfied that they complied with all of the required licence conditions and had in place all the necessary measures to ensure strict biosecurity throughout the site.

As part of the SAPO licence, we require Merial to apply rigorous standard operating procedures. In relation to the valves, these mean that each time the centrifuge is used, two operators must certify that the valve is locked shut and its integrity is confirmed by pressure tests before and after each batch. In addition, the preventive maintenance system includes regular inspections and although the valves on the centrifuge have a three-year life expectancy, they are replaced annually. All these checks must be recorded.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 22 November 2007: Specified Animal Pathogens Order Licence Conditions at Merial Animal Health, what risk assessment he has carried out to the risks to British livestock of contamination from the live virus leak reported; and if he will make a statement. [170870]

**Jonathan Shaw:** An assessment carried out by the inspection team, on 20 November, concluded that live virus had not been released to the environment. This was the result of the extensive layers of biosecurity that we require under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order licence, which effectively contained the virus in the enclosed, re-lined drainage system before deactivation in the chemical treatment plant within the Pirbright site.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 22 November 2007: Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) Licence Conditions at Merial Animal Health, and the decision to suspend the SAPO licence, what assessment he has made of the effect this will have on the production of a bluetongue vaccine; and if he will make a statement. [170871]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 20 November, Merial informed DEFRA of a biosecurity incident at Pirbright and, although the incident was contained, the use of live virus was immediately suspended as our paramount concern is the security of the site. An inspection team urgently conducted detailed checks and we are considering what further action needs to be taken.

It is too early to say what implications this may have on the production of a bluetongue vaccine. However, this suspension does not prevent Merial from conducting development of a bluetongue vaccine as their Pirbright site is primarily a production, rather than research, facility; Merial conduct the majority of their research elsewhere. There are also two other manufacturers of bluetongue vaccine, Intervet and Fort Dodge. We are currently considering bids from all three companies that were submitted following our recent tendering exercise and we plan to make an announcement on the outcome shortly.

## Organic Farming

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Food and Agriculture Organisation's policy on organic farming. [170365]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Food and Agriculture Organisation's report on Paying Farmers for Environmental Services is a helpful contribution to the debate on how best to secure delivery of environmental public goods for which there is no return for farmers from the market. The contribution which can be made in this country by organic farmers is recognised through aid paid under the Organic Entry Level Scheme.

## Organic Food: Low Incomes

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to increase the availability of organic food to low income families. [171834]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* The Government offers considerable support to the organic sector through financial aid to organic farmers and the organic action plan, in order to make organic produce more accessible. The stakeholder group supporting the organic action plan is currently examining the issue of how income and geographical locations impact on the ability of consumers to purchase organic food and will make recommendations to DEFRA in the new year.

We have to recognise that, by its very nature, organic food is more expensive to produce because of the greater emphasis on sustainable extensive management systems in preference to artificial inputs and intensive farming systems.

## Pigs: Animal Breeding

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the size was of the total breeding herd of pigs in England in each of the last 10 years. [173001]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The total pig breeding herd in England for each of the last 10 years is shown in the table:

| | *Number of pigs in breeding herd* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 629,915 |
| 1999 | 573,034 |
| 2000 | 502,697 |
| 2001 | 488,980 |
| 2002 | 457,871 |
| 2003 | 418,053 |
| 2004 | 424,485 |
| 2005 | 386,207 |
| 2006 | 386,109 |
| 2007 | 374,861 |

*Notes:*
1. Pig breeding herd is sows and gilts in pig and other sows either being suckled or dry sows being kept for further breeding.
2. These totals are estimates based on a sample survey and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling error.

*Source:*
June Survey of Agriculture

## Poultry: Animal Welfare

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on animal welfare problems associated with intensive broiler chicken production; and if he will make a statement. [171073]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* I am pleased to say that the European Commission directive on the welfare of broiler chickens gained political agreement at Agriculture Council on 7 May 2007, after two years of negotiations. The UK worked hard with the Commission and other animal welfare-conscious member states to get the dossier agreed.

The directive will deliver real welfare benefits for broilers, while balancing economic, social and environmental impacts. It takes into account a range of factors, including the latest scientific evidence, veterinary advice, consumer concerns and industry practice.

Throughout the negotiations we held extensive discussions with a range of stakeholders, both through a formal consultation on the proposals as well as through meetings and correspondence. We will continue to involve stakeholders during our transposition of the new directive into domestic legislation, and this will include a full 12-week public consultation period.

## Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the role of the UK policy custodian for the marine and aquatic environment is, as stated in his Department's Marine and Fisheries Business Plan 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [170931]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA is the UK policy custodian for the marine and aquatic environment. The purpose of the role is to seek to deliver clean, safe, healthy, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas through the Department's marine programme.

## Seas and Oceans: Pollution Control

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to report on the review of the marine emergency contingency plan; and if he will make a statement. [170895]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

The current National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations, agreed by Ministers, was published in November 2006. This plan ensures that there is a timely, measured and effective response to the threat of, or actual pollution of UK waters from ships or offshore installations. A copy of this plan is available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website at

http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga-environmental/mcga-dops_cp_environmental-counter-pollution/mcga-ncp.htm

### Special Areas of Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which inshore sites he has identified to become special areas of conservation over the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [170890]

**Joan Ruddock:** Currently, there are 28 Special Areas of Conservation with marine habitats or species in English inshore waters. Natural England are in the process of carrying out a programme of further data collection and survey work for seven additional inshore areas. This should lead to the selection of further Special Areas of Conservation.

The areas involved include: Outer Wash sandbanks; Greater Thames estuary; Lyme Bay to Poole Bay; Salcombe to Yealm and Eddystone; Lizard Point; Lands End and Cape Bank; and Outer Morecombe Bay, Shell Flat and Lune Deep.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which offshore sites he has identified to become special areas of conservation over the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [170891]

**Joan Ruddock:** We are completing our Natura 2000 network of sites in the marine area, which we hope to have substantially finalised by 2012. We expect to send an initial tranche of candidate offshore special areas of conservation to the European Commission before September 2008.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee will be consulting on seven initial sites later this month. These include: Braemar Pockmarks, Darwin Mounds, Haig Fras, North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, Scanner Pockmark, Stanton Banks and Wyville Thomson Ridge.

Our programme of data collection and survey work will continue to identify further sites needed to complete the UK network.

### Turtles: Conservation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 168W, on Turtles: conservation, if he will list the UK wildlife crime priorities for 2007-08; and with respect to the illegal trade in CITES species, what the five species threatened by illegal trade are that are being focused on. [171213]

**Joan Ruddock:** The five UK wildlife crime priorities for 2007-08, agreed by senior Government and enforcement officers, are offences against bats and freshwater pearl mussels, the illegal trade in CITES species, the illegal killing of hen harriers, and poaching.

With respect to the illegal trade in CITES species, the five areas being focused on are caviar, ivory, ramin, tortoises and traditional medicines.

The priorities do not preclude action being taken to investigate and prosecute crimes against other wildlife species.

### Waste Disposal

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of waste facilities required to meet the commitments entered into under the European Landfill Directive; how many such waste facilities exist; how many new ones are *(a)* under construction and *(b)* planned; and if he will make a statement. [167132]

**Joan Ruddock:** No specific estimate has been made by my Department on the number of waste facilities needed. However, DEFRA's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP) is maintaining a national overview of existing and planned residual treatment capacity to ensure that resources are applied in the most effective manner. It is the responsibility of local authorities, working on their own or in partnership with neighbouring authorities, to procure waste management facilities suited to local needs.

While we are confident that we have enough infrastructure in place to meet our 2010 EU Landfill Directive target, current estimates suggest that we still require an increase in diversion capacity to allow us to meet the 2013 and 2020 targets. This infrastructure will help to facilitate an increase in both recycling and composting and diversion from landfill. The number of facilities required will depend upon the nature of waste delivery authority procurements, the technology selected and the size of individual plants.

We are currently aware of 81 plants across England (covering a range of treatment and disposal technologies) that are scheduled to become operational from 2008 onwards. These will potentially provide the capacity to treat an extra 10.3 million tonnes of municipal waste. With the ongoing engagement WIDP is undertaking with authorities, the combination of authorities' ambitions and the utilisation of the £2 billion private finance initiative credits recently announced in the comprehensive spending review, the Government believe sufficient infrastructure can be delivered to meet our obligations under the Landfill Directive.

It remains vital that regional spatial strategies and local development documents look forward and make adequate provision for the appropriate types and scales of infrastructure and waste treatment facilities needed. It is also important for specific and suitable sites to be identified in local plans.

### Waste Disposal: Costs

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average cost per capita of collecting waste in predominantly *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [170877]

**Joan Ruddock:** Local authorities report the cost of waste collection per head as best value performance indicator (BVPI) 86. Data for local authorities in England for 2006-07 are available on the DEFRA website.

No specific assessment has been made of the average cost of collecting waste in rural compared to urban areas. However, it is possible to calculate the total per capita cost of household waste collection from the BVPI data. This shows that the average cost per head for predominantly rural authorities is £49.82 compared to £48.73 in urban authorities. Analysis of the individual local authority data shows that there is variability within these average costs.

### Water

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration has been given to bringing the responsibility for drainage matters in a particular area under one statutory authority. [172065]

**Mr. Woolas:** We are aiming to improve management of flood risk nationally and to clarify responsibilities by giving the Environment Agency a strategic overview of all forms of flooding in a close partnership with local authorities and the water companies in long term planning and strategic risk management.

The Government is currently examining approaches to the management of surface water drainage. As part of the upcoming Government Water Strategy, Future Water, due to be published early in 2008, we will review the institutional arrangements for those bodies responsible for surface water. This work will take on board recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's interim report, due shortly, and the 15 pilot projects we are funding to identify improvements to the management of urban drainage.

## WALES

### Business

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list those meetings he has helped to arrange between ministerial colleagues across Government and Welsh business representatives over the last 12 months. [172690]

**Mr. Hain:** It is my duty to facilitate meetings across Government both at Westminster and in Cardiff to strengthen economic opportunity for Wales and I and my office do so from time to time.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171448]

**Mr. Hain:** Prior to 2004-05 these items were purchased by or paid for via the National Assembly for Wales and figures can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The expenses incurred by the Wales Office for the following years were:

£

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Cards: | 2,949.57 | 1,020 | 897.80 |
| *(b)* Parties: | 1,284.28 | 2,523.96 | 5,538.33 |
| *(c)* Decorations: | 0 | 0 | 100 |

Printing costs for invitations are not included this can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171330]

**Mr. Hain:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the 'Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers' list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the ministerial code.

### Right to Buy Scheme

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when the Government first received the draft legislative competence order on the supervision of the right to buy from the Welsh Assembly Government. [172689]

**Mr. Hain:** While discussions between the Welsh Assembly government and the UK Government concerning this proposal began at the end of June, the draft order that was published in the National Assembly on 4 December was first received by the Government on 29 November.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Equality

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality for what reasons responsibilities for administering the provisions of the Equal Pay Act 1970, Sex Discrimination Act 1975, Race Relations Act 1976, Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates Act) 2002, Civil Partnerships Act 2004 and the Equality Act 2006 are divided between Departments. [172594]

**Barbara Follett:** Responsibility for administering these provisions is not divided between different Departments. The Government Equalities Office is responsible for maintaining these pieces of legislation, working closely with a range of Departments which have a strong interest, including Communities and Local Government and the Ministry of Justice.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what changes have been made to ministerial responsibility for each equality strand in the last year; and how these changes have been communicated to *(a)* staff and *(b)* stakeholders. [172595]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the Prime Minister on 26 July 2007 at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm#07072644000043

and to a subsequent written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 18 October 2007:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm071018/wmstext/71018m0001.htm#07101814000009

All changes to ministerial responsibility are reported to staff by senior officials within relevant Departments. Changes to ministerial responsibility were communicated to those stakeholders with whom there are regular contacts by correspondence or by telephone.

### Ministerial Duties

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what proportion of the working week of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Government Equalities Office, is allocated to *(a)* her role supporting the Minister for Women and Equalities and *(b)* her role as Minister for the East of England. [171384]

**Barbara Follett:** There is no such thing as an average working week.

As with any Minister who has a broad portfolio I prioritise my work accordingly.

## OLYMPICS

### Legacy Objectives

4. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the legacy objectives are for the Olympic Games in Southend and the UK. [172192]

**Tessa Jowell:** We are committed to ensuring that everyone in the UK can be part of the 2012 games—through cultural events across the country, more opportunities to take part in sport and be physically active, and a wealth of volunteering, jobs and skills training initiatives. The five legacy promises that I published in June encapsulate these objectives, and I will be publishing an action plan in the new year making clear how these promises will be delivered. These aims apply to every nation and region of the UK, including Southend.

### Budget

5. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent discussions she has had on the budget for the Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [172193]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Ministerial Funders Group met on 26 November and agreed funding for the Olympic Delivery Authority within the £9.325 billion provision I announced in March.

Since then I have had discussions with:

the Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee;

the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee;

the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Culture spokesmen and

the president of the International Olympic Committee.

This morning, I presented a written statement to the House to update hon. Members on the budget for 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

### British Olympic Association

6. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the contribution of the British Olympic Association to preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games. [172194]

**Tessa Jowell:** The British Olympic Association plays a key role in the preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

The BOA is a member of the London organising committee, and its chairman, Lord Moynihan, is a member of the Olympic Board—the body responsible for overseeing the successful delivery of the games in 2012 and ensuring the games leave a lasting sporting and social legacy.

The BOA is also responsible for selecting and leading Team GB. It provides support to Britain's Olympic athletes and works closely with national governing bodies and UK Sport to ensure the success of British athletes in 2012.

### Scotland

7. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will make a statement on the expected effect of the 2012 Olympics on Scotland. [172195]

**Tessa Jowell:** It was a cornerstone of our successful 2012 bid that hosting the games in London would bring fantastic opportunities to the whole of the UK. We are working closely with organisations across the country, through the nations and regions group, to maximise UK-wide benefits. Scotland will host football events at Hampden park, bringing tourism and other benefits. There will also be opportunities around the cultural olympiad, volunteering and the potential to win contracts and host training camps.

### Olympic Games 2012: Finance

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics further to the permanent secretary's evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on Wednesday 15 November, what the Singapore commitments on mass participation sport costed in the Olympic budget are. [168213]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* As the permanent secretary said at the recent Public Accounts Committee on 14 November 2007, the £9.325 billion funding package for the Olympic and Paralympic games reflects commitments made in London's candidate city file, at the time of the bid, particularly in relation to construction for the games and regeneration. The candidate city file, often referred to as 'the bid book', is available in the House Library.

The £9.325 billion funding package for the games, includes a £290 million contribution from the sport lottery distributors, which will be invested in maximising the benefit to British sport of hosting the games, through support of elite and community sport. The key areas of investment will be:

Programmes of support for elite athletes and coaches;

Development of facilities for elite and community use; and

Community programmes/projects for clubs, coaches and volunteers, to increase participation and improve performance.

The Government will publish a legacy action plan early in the new year, that will set out our commitments for the Olympic legacy, including for participation in sport, and how they will be delivered.

### Olympic Games 2012: Training

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hackney North and Stoke Newington of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1034-35W, on Olympic Games 2012: training, how many of the 1,500 training places provided by the local employment and training framework for the Olympic Games are for *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* level (i) 1, (ii) 2, (iii) 3 and (iv) 4 qualifications. [169670]

**Tessa Jowell:** The initial focus of the local employment and training framework programme has been on basic employability and vocational skills based both on the needs of local people and those of the contractors currently employing the construction work force on the Olympic Park. The target for the financial year 2007-08 is 1,500 training places. Since its launch in January to September 2007, 1,169 training places have been offered, the vast majority of which were at level 1, with 13 above level 1. Information on places offered since then is not yet available.

The LETF is only one of a broad range of initiatives being undertaken by the Mayor's London employment and skills taskforce for 2012, which is investing around £25 million per year in improving employment and training opportunities. LEST's target is to reduce worklessness in London by 70,000 by 2012, including by 20,000 in the five east London host boroughs.

As part of this, the Prime Minister announced on 29 November a national constructions skills academy project on the Olympic park that would provide at least 1,000 job placements for people enrolled on local further education college construction courses, 1,000 other training placements for local people and more than 500 apprenticeship places.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Chequers

**Anne Main:** To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1110W, to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks), on Chequers, when he plans to update the list of guests entertained at Chequers on the Cabinet Office website. [171480]

**The Prime Minister:** A list of guests entertained at Chequers for the financial year 2006-07 is available at 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1110-11W.

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171307]

**The Prime Minister:** Chapter 7 of the ministerial code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Prime Minister how many people worked in No. 10 Downing street on *(a)* 1 May 2007 and *(b)* 1 December 2007, broken down by policy area; and if he will make a statement. [172785]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 819-20W.

### Public Sector: Ethics

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to foster and promote the public's trust in those in public life; what recent discussions he has had on the issue; with whom; what recent representations he has received about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [172407]

**The Prime Minister:** As announced at Prime Minister's questions and in the debate on "Standards of Conduct in Public Life" on 5 December, I have appointed a new chair of the Committee on Standards for Public Life. Sir Christopher Kelly has been appointed for a single fixed term of five years. I met the outgoing interim chair of the committee and her successor on Thursday 6 December.

"The Governance of Britain", which is currently out for public consultation, sets out the Government's proposals to limit the powers of the executive, make the executive more accountable and reinvigorate our democracy. The Queen's Speech announced that proposals will be brought forward to renew the constitutional settlement and strengthen the relationship between the Government, Parliament and the people. In addition the ministerial code was updated in July.

### Saudi Arabia

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Prime Minister when he last met representatives of the Saudi Arabian Government; what topics were discussed; how long the meeting lasted; and when he next expects to meet such representatives. [171679]

**The Prime Minister:** Details of my meeting with the Saudi Arabian Government can be found on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page13683.asp

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operation

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Lynx helicopters are available for service on a 24-hour basis throughout the year in Afghanistan. [172535]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353W.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British helicopters are carrying out operations in Afghanistan. [172578]

**Des Browne:** I have nothing to add to the reply given by the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353W.

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many combat-related injuries requiring hospitalisation of service personnel in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq there have been since January 2001, broken down by the home constituency of such personnel; and if he will make a statement. [168063]

**Derek Twigg:** Casualty figures for Iraq and Afghanistan are published on the MOD website: http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets. These are updated fortnightly, in arrears, and show explicitly the number of personnel who were admitted to UK field hospitals and categorised as wounded in action, including as a result of hostile action, as well as the numbers aeromedically evacuated on medical grounds, whatever the reason.

However, it is not possible to provide details of the home constituency of these personnel. To provide this information would involve disproportionate cost.

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to acknowledge the contributions made by service personnel who have suffered injuries during service in Afghanistan and Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [168065]

**Derek Twigg:** It is recognised that the intensity of current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, coupled with the level of fatalities and wounded, has resulted in considerable public interest in how we recognise the contribution made by our servicemen and women. The military chiefs of staff keep this complex subject under constant review and they are the best placed to make recommendations on the way forward.

I and my fellow Defence Ministers visit injured personnel on a regular basis, both in field hospitals on operations, in UK hospitals and at our rehabilitation centre at Headley Court. Ministers and service chiefs regularly highlight the courage and sacrifice of those wounded in operations. Access to the wounded services personnel has also been given to the media on a number of occasions at Headley Court.

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds have been fired by British forces in each Brigade rotation in Helmand province since May 2006, broken down by type of ammunition used. [168908]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The records held only start from 13 August 2006. All usage figures are approximate. The figures cover all rounds fired by British personnel in Afghanistan. There has been minimal usage outside Helmand province.

| *Type of nature* | *Herrick 4 (August 2006 to October 2006)* | *Herrick 5 (October 2006 to April 2007)* | *Herrick 6 (April 2007 to October 2007)* | *Herrick 7 (October 2007 onwards)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7.62mm all natures | 210,000 | 520,000 | 1,100,000 | 135,000 |
| 5.56mm all natures | 235,000 | 615,000 | 1,170,000 | 180,000 |
| 0.5 inch all natures | 25,000 | 90,000 | 185,000 | 21,000 |
| 12.7mm all natures | 2,400 | 350 | 0 | 400 |
| 9mm all natures | 10,000 | 69,000 | 14,000 | 3,000 |
| 0.338 | 200 | 1,700 | 4,900 | 490 |
| 12 bore shotgun all natures | 5 | 45 | 660 | 60 |
| 105mm all natures | 8,600 | 4,300 | 12,100 | 900 |
| 30mm armoured fighting vehicle rounds | 1,200 | 5,000 | 3,600 | 0 |
| 30mm attack helicopter rounds | 29,800 | 21,000 | 26,500 | 4,500 |

## Airborne Task Force

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which battalion forms the Airborne Task Force (ABTF); whether it is fully equipped; whether the ABTF is deployed; and when the next ABTF will take over from the current ABTF; [170803]

(2) which brigade forms the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF); whether it is fully equipped; whether the JRRF is deployed; and when the next JRRF will take over from the current JRRF. [170806]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF) is made up of 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines, 16 Air Assault Brigade and the High Readiness Mechanised or Armoured Brigade. None of these units is currently deployed in a JRRF capacity. The elements of the JRRF that are currently held at high readiness, therefore, are the Lead Commando Group (LCG) and the Lead Airborne Task Force (ABTF). The LCG is made up of elements of 3 Commando Brigade, while the ABTF is currently provided by the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (2 PARA). The remaining element of the high readiness reserve is provided by the Spearhead Land Element. The ABTF is due to be replaced by a Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup, based on a Light Infantry Role Battlegroup, between February 2008 and January 2009; its readiness may vary over time depending on the unit rostered.

For non-discretionary JRRF tasks, equipment holdings exist to ensure mission success. However, some equipment types might need to be re-apportioned from supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, dependent on the task, to ensure that appropriate quantities were available.

### Armed Forces Compensation Scheme: Scotland

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans in Scotland have made successful claims from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. [172607]

**Derek Twigg:** The number of successful claims made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme from claimants living in Scotland is shown in the following table.

*Awards made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme to claimants living in Scotland by financial year*[1] [2]

| | Awards |
|---|---|
| Total | 45 |
| 2005-06 | |
| 2006-07 | 30 |
| 2007-08[4] | 15 |

[1] Data have been rounded to the nearest five. Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

[2] Data will include claims made from serving personnel as well as veterans.

[3] Negligible value, (greater than zero, but less than five).

[4] This covers the period from 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007.

### Armed Forces: Compensation

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans in Edinburgh have received compensation from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. [172415]

**Derek Twigg:** The number of claimants living in Edinburgh who have received compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme is shown in the following table.

*Awards made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme to claimants living in Edinburgh by financial year*[1] [2]

| | Awards |
|---|---|
| Total | 10 |
| 2005-06 | |
| 2006-07 | 5 |
| 2007-08[3] | * |

[1] Data have been rounded to the nearest five. "–" refers to a value of zero, while "*" refers to a negligible value (greater than zero, but less than five). Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

[2] Data will include claims made from serving personnel as well as veterans.

[3] This covers the period from 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007.

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans in Edinburgh have been found to have suffered disability as a result of their service in the armed forces but are not eligible for assistance through the *(a)* Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and *(b)* War Pension Scheme. [172416]

**Derek Twigg:** Under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme there have been less than five cases in Edinburgh, of claimants with injuries or conditions assessed as being due to service, not having met the minimum tariff level for compensation. Note that it is only possible to identify these cases for claims registered after 11 November 2005.

The number of first claims made by claimants living in Edinburgh which resulted in a nil award under the War Pension Scheme since the financial year 2003-04 are shown in table 1 as follows. A nil award is made when the injury or condition claimed for is found to be attributable or aggravated by service, but disability is assessed at 0 per cent. and so no monetary award is made.

*Table 1: Number of Veterans in Edinburgh given a nil percentage assessment by financial year*[1]

| | Nil percentage assessment |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 10 |
| 2004-05 | 10 |
| 2005-06 | 10 |
| 2006-07 | |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five. "–" represents a figure less than five.

### Armed Forces: Absence Without Leave

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel were reported as absent without leave in the *(a)* Royal Air Force, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army in each year since 1997. [171474]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows absence without leave statistics by calendar year for each Service since 1997:

| | RN | Army | RAF |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 30 | 1,450 | 15 |
| 1998 | 30 | 1,850 | 15 |
| 1999 | 35 | 2,055 | 20 |
| 2000 | 60 | 2,710 | 25 |
| 2001 | 95 | 2,650 | 25 |
| 2002 | 105 | 2,950 | 25 |
| 2003 | 120 | 2,820 | 35 |
| 2004 | 185 | 3,030 | 55 |
| 2005 | 195 | 2,715 | 35 |
| 2006 | 155 | 2,330 | 10 |
| 2007 | 105 | 2,060 | 20 |

*Notes*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and are as at 20 November 2007.
2. Differences in figures for individual years compared to previous answers occur because personnel may have been wrongly reported as AWOL in the first instance, or conversely they may have subsequently been found to have been AWOL and the records rectified later. AWOL statistics are recorded by the number of incidences of AWOL rather than the number of people who have gone AWOL, so there may be a number of people who are represented more than once in these figures.

### Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* members of ethnic minorities and *(b)* women were serving in the armed forces in each of the last 10 years. [171853]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is available in Table 3 of the Tri-Service Publication 4—UK Armed Forces Quarterly Manpower Report. The most recent publication is available at

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp4/tsp4tab3.html

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to encourage more *(a)* women and *(b)* members of ethnic minorities to join the armed forces. [171854]

**Derek Twigg:** The armed forces continue to undertake numerous and varied initiatives, both at national and local level, aimed at encouraging more women and members of the ethnic minority communities to consider a service career.

The recruiting organisations include female personnel to assist a fair gender representation in recruiting activities. Female service personnel are also used appropriately in advertising, to help illustrate life in the armed forces. Furthermore all three services have Presentation Teams to raise awareness of the armed forces, and they include visits to girls' schools.

All three services have Specialist Diversity Teams which are heavily engaged in raising awareness and the profile of the armed forces and promoting service careers among the UK's ethnic minority and faith communities. The wide programme of events include: setting up and maintaining community partnerships across the UK; school, college and community visits; major ethnically centred events, including sports with particular ethnic minority interest; gatekeepers (e.g. teachers, community leaders, parents, etc.) visits; and extended campaigns in focused areas of high ethnic minority population.

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial contribution he has made to those primary care trusts with the greatest number of serving and veteran service personnel within their areas. [170214]

**Derek Twigg:** While they are in the armed forces, British service personnel receive free medical treatment through the Defence Medical Services. When they leave the armed forces and when reservists are demobilised, the responsibility for their health care is transferred to the NHS. For in-service personnel and reservists, the Department annually commissions some £29 million of activity (out-patients and in-patient care) from the five NHS trusts hosting MOD Hospital Units (MDHUs) and from University Hospital Birmingham NHS foundation trust (UHBFT). This includes approximately £6.5 million for emergency care that we pay the MDHU host trusts and which is delivered under emergency access standards.

The remainder (some £22.5 million annually) is used to commission accelerated access care over and above current NHS waiting times. Many service personnel are also referred into their local district general hospital by their referring GPs. In addition, we spend just over £1 million annually for other fast track access outside our MDHU host trusts.

Introduced in 1953, NHS Priority Treatment was restricted to veterans with disablements accepted under our Armed Forces Compensation Scheme as service-related. The Health Secretary announced on 23 November that extended priority treatment will be available to all veterans whose conditions are suspected by the general practitioner of being service-related. Any costs will be paid for by the NHS. I announced the launch of the new veterans' mental health pilots in parallel as an important initiative to improve services for those with mental health problems. The MOD will provide start up costs to the six pilot sites participating in the scheme and cover the cost of project evaluation; we expect the total cost of the pilots to the Department to be some £500,000. Any pilot cost beyond this will be the responsibility of the local NHS trusts.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether receipts resulting from the return of void married quarters to Annington Homes will be used to improve the quality of the married quarters estate. [166117]

**Derek Twigg:** Within the terms of the Annington contract the return of void married quarters to Annington Homes does not generate a receipt for the MOD. Under the terms of the Profit Share Agreement with Annington Homes Limited, however, when MOD hand back surplus married quarters to Annington Homes and subsequently Annington Homes sell the properties, 22 per cent. of the proceeds of the sales of surplus MOD properties is returned to HM Treasury. These monies enter a consolidated general cash account and are not paid directly back from HM Treasury to the MOD.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what timescale a service personnel family must leave service quarters *(a)* on the death of a serviceman or woman and *(b)* in respect of a wounded serviceman or woman who is medically discharged; and what assistance is provided for finding civilian quarters in such circumstances. [167747]

**Derek Twigg:** The policy applied in these situations is set out in Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations.

Following the death in service of a serviceman or woman, the bereaved spouse/civil partner and their family have continued entitlement to Service Families Accommodation (SFA) for a reasonable period to assist them in coming to terms with their bereavement and to enable them to determine their longer term housing requirements. A period of two years is offered. Retention of SFA may be extended beyond the two year period at the discretion of the local service commander in consultation with welfare, medical, and educational authorities and with Defence Estates Operations—Housing. The objective of the policy is to help the bereaved spouse/civil partner in their transition back into the civilian community. At no time will a bereaved spouse/civil partner and their families need to leave a property until they have secured suitable alternative accommodation.

Once a decision has been taken to medically discharge an individual from the service, the Defence Medical Services health team who have been caring for that individual will liaise with appropriate civilian healthcare providers (e.g. General Practitioner, primary care trust, civilian mental health team, or NHS Hospital Trust) to ensure the transfer of care and patient history takes place. In addition, specialist health social workers will manage the individual's wider resettlement issues, liaising with relevant civil agencies such as local housing authorities, financial authorities, service welfare and charitable organisations. The objective is again to ensure that the individual's transfer into the civilian environment is as smooth and as seamless as possible.

For personnel compulsorily discharged on medical grounds, 93 days continued use and occupancy of the SFA is permitted after the date of discharge. Thereafter, extensions of up to 93 days at a time may be granted on compassionate grounds at the discretion of Defence Estates Operations—Housing, in consultation with the appropriate local service commander. No personnel discharged will need to leave SFA until an appropriate alternative accommodation has been secured.

The Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) is available to all service personnel and their families, offering advice and guidance in sourcing social and private accommodation.

### Armed Forces: Pay

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the service level agreement on the resolution of problems encountered by personnel in relation to the operation of the Joint Pay and Allowance System. [169207]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: I will arrange for a copy of the generic service level agreement covering the provision of services in support of service personnel, pay and pensions administration to be placed in the Library of the House. The service level agreement was between the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency, now the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, and the Single Services.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether consideration has been given to the purchase of the Cheetah vehicle by his Department. [170119]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Cheetah has been considered for a protected patrol vehicle programme. It did not, however, meet a number of key user requirements, and was therefore not taken forward.

### Astute Class Submarines

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what he estimates the lifetime cost of the Astute programme will be. [170639]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The current whole-life cost estimate for the Astute programme, based on a Seven Boat Class, is £42 billion (outturn, VAT inclusive where applicable), comprising £9 billion for concept, design and manufacture; £32 billion for in-service (includes crew costs, support, maintenance and spares) and £1 billion for disposal.

### Ballistic Missile Defence

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place on notification and consultation between the US Administration and the Government before RAF Fylingdales and RAF Menwith Hill could be used to engage hostile missile attacks on the US. [168869]

**Des Browne:** The early warning information that is provided by RAF Fylingdales, and is routed through RAF Menwith Hill, is shared by the US and UK. Appropriate procedures are in place for notification and consultation between the US Administration and the Government.

### Charities: Fees and Charges

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department charged the charity organisers for the RAF Brize Norton 2005 Children in Need concert. [163146]

**Derek Twigg:** I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

*Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Nick Harvey:*

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of 19 November 2007, (*Official Report*, Column 475W) asking how much the Ministry of Defence charged the charity organisers during the Children in Need concert held at RAF Brize Norton in November 2005.

I can confirm that the charity organisers of the Children in Need event held at RAF Brize Norton in November 2005 were not charged by the MOD, because the BBC met many of the costs and donations from sponsors covered others.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

### Defence Estates: Charities

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which insurance firms his Department uses when insuring charity events on departmental property. [168900]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence does not purchase insurance policies to cover the risks incurred when charity events are held on departmental property. Such events are not part of the Ministry's core publicly funded defence business and therefore the charity is required to indemnify the Ministry of Defence against any resulting claims or costs.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is responsible for obtaining public liability insurance when charity events are held on his Department's property. [170838]

**Derek Twigg:** Charity events are not part of the Ministry of Defence's core publicly funded defence business. The charity is therefore required to indemnify the Ministry against any resulting claims and is responsible for obtaining public liability insurance.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Defence Estates Operation South has charged charity events for *(a)* a defence estates licences, *(b)* defence estates licence preparation costs and *(c)* defence estates licences VAT costs in the last two years. [170839]

**Derek Twigg:** It is not possible to separately identify charges for charity events from other events without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which official in Defence Estates Operation South has the authority to waive defence estates licence fees; and what the limits in size of fee are that can be waived. [170840]

**Derek Twigg:** Within Defence Estates Operations South, no officials have authority to waive licence fees.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Defence Estates (Warminster) has billed in liability charges for events held on his Department's property since April 2005. [170847]

**Derek Twigg:** It is not possible to separately identify liability charges billed by Defence Estates (Warminster) from other charges for events without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Defence Estates: Official Hospitality

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many decisions to waive the liability charge on Defence Estate (Aldershot) have been made for events since 2006; and what events were involved; [168874]

(2) how much Defence Estate (Andover) has billed in liability charges for events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [168875]

(3) how much Defence Estate (Sutton Coldfield) has billed in liability charges for events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [168876]

(4) how much Defence Estate (Salisbury) has billed in liability charges for events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [168877]

(5) how much Defence Estate (Osbaldwick, York) has billed in liability charges for events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [168878]

(6) how much Defence Estate (High Wycombe) has billed in liability charges for events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [168879]

(7) how much *(a)* Defence Estate (Warminster), *(b)* Defence Estate (Telford) and *(c)* Defence Estate (Rosyth) has billed in liability charges for events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [168901]

(8) how many times Defence Estates (Aldershot) has waived the liability charge for events held on its property since 2006; and for which events the charge was waived. [170846]

**Derek Twigg:** It is not possible to separately identify liability charges billed by each Defence Estates (DE) office from other charges for events without incurring disproportionate cost in each case.

DE Aldershot has made no decisions to waive liability charges for events since 2006.

### Defence Estates: Official Hospitality

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 332W, on Defence Estates: Official Hospitality, in reviewing the background of the Sergeant Biddiss Charity event held at RAF Brize Norton what criteria were assessed by officials considering the nature of the event. [170845]

**Derek Twigg:** Officials of Defence Estates took into account the charitable nature of the event and specifically the participants i.e. serving military personnel, and the very low marginal cost where the cost of collecting would be greater than the amount charged.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168587]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows the quantities of computers and laptops reported as stolen in 2007. The estimated replacement cost has been used, as it is not possible to provide the recorded value without incurring disproportionate cost.

| *2007* | *Number/cost* |
|---|---|
| Computers stolen | 7 |
| Laptops stolen | 68 |
| Estimated replacement cost (£) | 130,188 |

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid in consultancy fees by his Department in each year since 1997. [171995]

**Derek Twigg:** Summaries for the years 1995-96 to 2006-07 of MOD expenditure on external assistance, which includes various categories of consultancy, are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168750]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Helicopters

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many journeys by helicopter Ministers in his Department have made since 27 June. [164534]

**Derek Twigg:** All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Since 27 June, Defence Ministers have travelled by helicopter once, on 12 October, when the then Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support returned to London from the Armed Forces Memorial dedication ceremony at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire.

In addition, all visitors, including Ministers, use helicopters when visiting operational theatres and military exercises. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what opinion polls his Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164951]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, records are available of the polling that relates to recruitment activity by the armed forces, and of the polling carried out by our central communications organisation to establish the attitudes of the public and our personnel to various aspects of defence activity. The following polling in these categories has been completed since 27 June:

| *Purpose* | *Firm employed* | *Cost (all VAT inclusive) £* |
|---|---|---|
| Top level reputation tracking of the MOD and armed forces | Ipsos MORI | 65,155.00 |
| Website visitor survey assessing views on the Royal Marine website | Virtual Surveys[1] | 9,300.00 |
| Army reputation tracking | Populus | 2 polls, 13,275 each |
| Territorial Army recruitment and retention | Cragg Ross Dawson[1] | 38,951.26 |

[1] Procured through Central Office of Information.

### Ex-servicemen: Disabled

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans in Scotland have been found to have suffered disability as a result of their service in the armed forces but are not eligible for assistance through the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pension Scheme. [172608]

**Derek Twigg:** The number of claims made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme by claimants living in Scotland with injuries or conditions that have been assessed as being due to service, but not having met the minimum level for compensation are shown in table 1 as follows:

*Table 1: Claims made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme to claimants living in Scotland where the minimum tariff level for compensation was not met[1] [2]*

| | *Claims* |
|---|---|
| Total | 20 |
| 2005-06[3] | * |
| 2006-07 | 15 |
| 2007-08[4] | * |

[1] Data have been rounded to the nearest five. "—" refers to a value of zero, while "*" refers to a negligible value (greater than zero, but less than five). Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

[2] Data will include claims made from serving personnel as well as veterans.

[3] Data are unavailable for claims registered between 6 April 2005 and 11 November 2005.

[4] This covers the period from 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007.

The number of first claims made by claimants living in Scotland which resulted in a nil award under the War Pension Scheme since the financial year 2003-04 are shown in table 2 as follows. A nil award is made when the injury or condition claimed for is found to be attributable or aggravated by service, but disability is assessed at 0 per cent. and so no monetary award is made.

*Table 2: Number of Veterans in Scotland given a nil percentage assessment, by financial year[1]*

| | *Nil percentage assessment* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 125 |
| 2004-05 | 115 |
| 2005-06 | 110 |
| 2006-07 | 105 |

[1] Data have been rounded to the nearest five.

### Ex-servicemen: Medals

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans in each constituency have applied for the Veterans' Badge; and if he will make a statement. [169373]

**Derek Twigg:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A total of 532,000 badges had been issued up to and including 23 November 2007.

### Iraq: Aviation

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to open Basra Airport to commercial flights; and if he will make a statement. [170825]

**Des Browne:** Basra International airport received its first commercial flight, operated by Iraqi Airways, in January 2005. It continues to act as an international airport receiving both commercial and military aircraft.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying hours RAF helicopter pilots *(a)* are required to have and *(b)* have on average before being deployed on operational duties flying (i) Puma, (ii) Merlin, (iii) Chinook and (iv) Sea King helicopters. [171011]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The minimum number of flying hours that an RAF helicopter pilot would have before being considered to fly on operational duties are shown, by aircraft type, in the following table. These figures include hours flown on fixed wing and helicopter training aircraft. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five hours.

| *Helicopter type* | *Minimum hours flown* |
|---|---|
| Puma | 270 |
| Merlin | 245 |
| Chinook | 270 |
| Sea King | 290 |

The average number of flying hours that helicopter pilots have flown prior to operational deployment is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Navy: Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many patrol days in each category of operation each class of fishery patrol vessel was used in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [168227]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The number of patrol days on fishery protection for each class of fishery patrol vessel for the years 2002-03 were as follows:

| | *Island* | *Hunt* | *River* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 557 | 363 | 22 |
| 2003-04 | 375 | 250 | 345 |
| 2004-05 | — | 254 | 626 |
| 2005-06 | — | 219 | 636 |
| 2006-07 | | 227 | 618 |

*Note* Figures for the years 1997-98 to 2001-02 are not available.

The operational focus of River and Island classes of vessels during this period was fishery protection. Time not spent on fishery protection was used for standoffs, training, maintenance, passage and visits, and, in the case of River class vessels, unused days owned by VT Group plc. The primary role of the Hunt class vessels is Mine Counter Measure, not fishery protection. Details of the operations conducted by these vessels, apart from fishery patrols, are not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### RAF Kinloss: Redundancy

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Nimrod Line personnel at RAF Kinloss *(a)* requested premature voluntary redundancy and *(b)* took redundancy in 2006; and how many have done so in 2007. [169474]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The RAF does not retain information on those applicants who requested redundancy but were unsuccessful, and as such it is not possible to provide the number of Nimrod Line personnel at RAF Kinloss who requested redundancy.

Details of Nimrod Line personnel who left the RAF under redundancy terms are given in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 5 |
| 2007 | 10 |

*Notes:* 1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

### United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many consultation events have been held as part of the review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. [171662]

**Derek Twigg:** Consultations took place through meetings and telephone discussions with a wide range of stakeholders from the public and private sectors. International stakeholders were also consulted. Public sector stakeholders consulted throughout the study are the following Departments:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;

Department for Transport (including the Maritime and Coastguard Agency);

Her Majesty's Treasury;

Office of Fair Trading; and

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

UKHO Government customers and trade unions representing UKHO employees have also been consulted.

Private-sector stakeholders, including two trade associations, shipping fleet operators, distributors of navigational products, manufacturers of 'Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems' and commercial customers and other companies with an interest in public sector information, have been consulted.

International stakeholders consulted include foreign government hydrographic offices, data suppliers and flag states.

Given the continuous nature of this process, we do not hold records of the precise number of meetings and discussions held.

### War Pensions: Edinburgh

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans in Edinburgh have made successful claims for war pensions as funded by the War Pensions Scheme. [172482]

**Derek Twigg:** Due to the historical nature of the scheme, information on the total number of war disablement pensions awarded is not available. However, as at 30 June 2007 there were 1,065[1] war disablement pensions in payment to veterans living in Edinburgh.

Information is also available on the number of successful claims cleared in the last four financial years, since 2003-04. These are set out in the following table.

*Successful war disablement pension claims in Edinburgh, by financial year*[1]

| | *Successful claims* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 25 |
| 2004-05 | 25 |
| 2005-06 | 15 |
| 2006-07 | 20 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

### War Pensions: Scotland

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans in Scotland have made successful claims for war pensions funded by the War Pension Scheme. [172606]

**Derek Twigg:** Due to the historical nature of the scheme, information on the total number of war disablement pensions awarded is not available. However, as at 30 June 2007 there were 17,640[1] war disablement pensions in payment to veterans living in Scotland.

Information is also available on the number of successful claims cleared in the last four financial years, since 2003-04. These are set out in the following table.

*Successful war disablement pension claims in Scotland, by financial year[1]*

| | *Successful claims* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 375 |
| 2004-05 | 350 |
| 2005-06 | 380 |
| 2006-07 | 330 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

### Young People

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171272]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows strengths of civilian personnel[1] aged between 16 and 18 at 1 April each year.

[1] Includes industrial and non-industrial personnel and trading funds, and excludes Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and locally engaged civilians.

| | | *Headcount* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Ages 16 to 18* | *Total strength* |
| 1998 | 770 | 110,800 |
| 1999 | 830 | 107,890 |
| 2000 | 810 | 106,210 |
| 2001 | 710 | 104,720 |
| 2002 | 600 | 95,870 |
| 2003 | 490 | 93,550 |
| 2004 | 410 | 93,330 |
| 2005 | 370 | 92,470 |
| 2006 | 350 | 88,660 |
| 2007 | 260 | 83,930 |

*Source:*
DASA (Quad-service)

These numbers cannot be broken down by those employed directly and those employed through an employment agency, as this is not held centrally.

The proportion given time off work to undertake training funded by the MOD is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, all those entitled to day release would have been entitled to the following assistance:

All fees, including those for examinations, for day classes, for evening classes or for block release courses in lieu of classes and relevant text book costs would be paid for by MOD;

Time off in lieu may be taken to compensate for classes undertaken at evenings or weekends.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* apprenticeship and *(b)* advanced apprenticeship places he plans to provide in each year to 2020. [171864]

**Mr. Lammy:** Planned apprenticeship outputs/volumes by academic year to 2010-11 were published in the Learning and Skills Council's Statement of Priorities on 16 November 2007. The breakdown requested by apprenticeships at level 2 and advanced apprenticeships at level 3 is not available. A detailed trajectory to 2020 will be published as part of the review of apprenticeships, which is due for completion in early 2008.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people who completed a programme-led apprenticeship based at a college went on to complete a full level-3 apprenticeship in the same field in each year since 1997. [172274]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures for those participating in apprenticeships funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) can be derived from the individualised learner record. The programme-led apprenticeship is an initiative to enable more learners to enter an employed-status apprenticeship programme. When they achieve their agreed goals, learners cease to be on a PLA and then become mainstream apprentices. It is possible to calculate participation for programme-led apprenticeships from the ILR data, but not their progression onto mainstream apprenticeships and therefore the associated framework achievement.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of employers who will have to take on apprentices in order to meet the Government's target for apprenticeships in 2020. [171862]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government have announced plans to increase overall apprenticeship places from 250,000 today to 400,000 by 2020 but earlier if high-quality employer places are available. We therefore plan to expand the number of employers offering apprenticeships and the number of places offered by employers who are already involved in the programme. However, we do not intend to dictate to individual employers how many apprentices they require to meet their particular skills needs. A detailed trajectory covering the expansion of apprenticeship places to 2020 will be published as part of the review of apprenticeships, which is due for completion in early 2008.

## Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168604]

**Mr. Lammy:** No computers or laptops have been stolen from the Department in 2007. The value of stolen items is therefore zero.

## Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts is for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163801]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS operates a devolved procurement structure for consultancy contracts. As such there is no central register of contracts let. Therefore this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168745]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department currently shares information technology and data management systems with the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's Information Security Management System is not only compliant but has been independently certified to BS7799 since May 2002. In March 2007 certification was successfully achieved against the new ISO27001 standard. The certificate will be updated to reflect the name change to BERR at the next surveillance audit in 2008.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families systems work to the principles of the BS7799 standard.

## Departmental Manpower

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165119]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department was formed as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007. Numbers of staff recruited to the new Department since then have been small. The figures are set out by the relevant age bands in the following table:

| *Age range* | *Permanent* | *Temporary* |
|---|---|---|
| Age under 30 | 15 | 2 |
| Age 30 to 39 | 10 | 0 |
| Age 40 to 49 | 6 | 0 |
| Age 50 to 59 | 2 | 0 |
| Age 60 to 69 | 1 | 0 |

Detailed information on applicants and interviews is held by individual teams and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Educational Institutions: Registrations

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 166W, on educational institutions: registrations, how many illegal immigrants were detected at each of the 114 colleges removed from the Register of Education and Training Providers. [170510]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

The Border and Immigration Agency is not able to advise how many illegal immigrants were detected at the 114 colleges removed from the Register of Educational Providers since its inception. The Border and Immigration Agency can advise the names of the colleges removed and the numbers of students granted further leave to remain on the basis of their studies at these colleges. However, some of these students may have started their studies in the UK at these colleges, found them to be non bona fide and transferred to a genuine education provider. At present, it is not mandatory for a foreign student to notify the Border and Immigration Agency when they change their place of study. Nor is it mandatory for a foreign student to study at any given establishment, although this will change with the introduction of the points based system.

## Galileo

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what ancillary functions have been designed into the Galileo satellite system; what assessment he has made of their contribution to achieving the objectives of the Galileo project; and if he will make a statement. [165180]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The main characteristics of Galileo were agreed by the Council of European Transport Ministers at their meeting on 9-10 December 2004. There have been no decisions taken on any ancillary functions for the system.

## Higher Education: Closures

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which UK university *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* science departments have closed since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170440]

**Bill Rammell:** Information on the closure, merger or opening of particular university departments has not been collected by the Department and not all science teaching is organised on a departmental basis. However, we have consistently made it clear that, if a physics or chemistry department closes at one institution, the Higher Education Funding Council for England should seek to maintain capacity elsewhere and we announced last year that the Council should report to us on how provision can be maintained in this way. Some science subjects are starting to become more popular and the measures that we are taking to increase demand and the extra £75 million announced last year should help to sustain capacity as demand increases. Physics and chemistry are also taught as major subjects at some 50 and 70 UK institutions, respectively. The latest figures published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service show that the number of students who have been accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses in chemistry in autumn 2007 is up by nearly 13 per cent. compared to 2005, while the figures for physics have increased by 10 per cent. over the same period.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on what he plans to spend the £100 million annually previously spent on second degrees. [172265]

**Bill Rammell:** All of the £100 million will be redistributed back to higher education providers to enable more people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in higher education for the first time. We estimate that by 2010-11, 20,000 people will be studying for a first HE qualification who otherwise would not have been able to do so—enough to fill an entire university.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the excepted courses are that are mentioned in his letter of 7 September 2007 to the chairman of the Higher Education Funding Council for England. [171963]

**Bill Rammell:** The excepted courses to which reference was made cover those relating to medicine, initial teacher training, dentistry, veterinary studies, social work, other health professional courses, architecture, landscape design and management, and town and country planning. The courses are kept under review. In addition, we asked HEFCE to consider whether there should be further exceptions or modifications for some categories of student; and on what grounds. The consultation exercise that HEFCE is conducting on how the policy can best be implemented ends on 7 December.

### School Leaving

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the basis was for his calculation that the economic benefits of increasing the compulsory education age to 18 years would be £2.4 billion per birth cohort; and if he will place in the Library the documentary sources used to make the calculation. [171859]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The basis of the estimate of economic benefits of raising the participation age (RPA) is new joint research by Sheffield university and DCSF. The research's central estimate of the additional benefits of RPA is around £2.4 billion for a single cohort of young people, discounted over their lifetimes. This research was published alongside the introduction of the Education and Skills Bill to the House on 29 November. This estimate was derived in three stages:

1. Modelling how many additional young people participate in full-time education as a result of RPA;
2. Modelling the attainment of these additional participants; and
3. Estimating the value of lifetime productivity gains from more young people having attained these extra qualifications.

For further details of the methodology and data sources used to estimate the economic benefits of RPA (and the magnitude of the benefits under alternative scenarios), the full report is accessible at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RW026.pdf.

The research will also be placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Students: Loans

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount of debt owed to the Student Loan Company by residents from the London Borough of Havering in higher education. [168422]

**Bill Rammell:** On 31 March 2007, 7,744 borrowers from the London borough of Havering owed £58,372,536 for publicly-owned student loans. This is based on the local authority area the borrower lived in at the time of their application for a loan.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the debt owed to the Student Loan Company by residents from the London Borough of Bexley in higher education. [168647]

**Bill Rammell:** On 31 March 2007, 8,701 borrowers from the London borough of Bexley owed £67,771,064 for publicly-owned student loans. This is based on the local authority area the borrower lived in at the time of their application for a loan.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### 101 Calls: Leicester

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what expenditure her Department incurred in advertising, marketing and promoting the 101 telephone line in Leicester; how many calls to the line resulted in prosecutions for *(a)* antisocial behaviour and *(b)* other criminal offences; on what date the decision was taken to withdraw funding for the line; and on what date this decision was communicated to Leicester city council; [170138]

(2) what representations she has received from Leicester city council in the last 12 months on funding of the 101 telephone line. [170197]

**Mr. McNulty:** The 101 service was launched to the public in Leicester city and Rutland on 4 September 2006 and subsequently in Melton and Harborough, covering a population of approximately 450,000. Around £272,000 was spent by the Home Office on publicising the new service locally and informing the public in these areas how it should be used, resulting in more than 65,000 calls to date from the public being made to the local 101 service.

Information on how many of these calls to the 101 service resulted in prosecutions for *(a)* antisocial behaviour and *(b)* other criminal offences is not collected centrally.

It was decided on 8 November 2007 not to continue to fund centrally the operation of the 101 service in the live areas but to continue to fund the national 101 telephony infrastructure, to ensure that the number remained available for use by those areas who wished to maintain or develop their own locally funded 101 service. Following discussion with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, co-sponsors of the 101 Programme, this decision was communicated to Leicester city council on 15 November 2007.

The Home Office has worked closely with Leicester city council and partners over the last 12 months to understand the benefits of the 101 service and to inform options for its future operation. As such, Leicester city council's views were taken into consideration as part of the Home Office's decision on future funding for the 101 service.

## Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there were for being drunk and disorderly of 10 to 17-year-olds in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year since 1997. [165676]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested on prosecutions is provided in table A.

In addition to prosecutions, the offence of being drunk and disorderly can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND). The offence was added to the PND scheme on 1 January 2004 and data on the number of PNDs issued in 2004 to 2006 broken down by police force area are provided in table B.

*Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts for being drunk and disorderly[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2, 3]*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 16 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 25 | 20 | 23 | 18 | 23 | 24 |
| Bedfordshire | 2 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 5 | 13 | 15 | 11 | 7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 7 | 4 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 12 |
| Cheshire | 53 | 55 | 46 | 50 | 57 | 59 | 59 | 63 | 11 | 14 |
| City of London | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 83 | 74 | 91 | 62 | 74 | 77 | 75 | 66 | 25 | 18 |
| Cumbria | 79 | 62 | 59 | 46 | 52 | 50 | 62 | 53 | 41 | 47 |
| Derbyshire | 24 | 19 | 8 | 18 | 28 | 33 | 34 | 44 | 25 | 18 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 37 | 36 | 30 | 62 | 76 | 60 | 69 | 91 | 63 | 77 |
| Dorset | 17 | 21 | 13 | 22 | 24 | 27 | 30 | 12 | 5 | 10 |
| Durham | 31 | 53 | 65 | 56 | 49 | 60 | 58 | 54 | 75 | 49 |
| Essex | 34 | 37 | 39 | 58 | 47 | 29 | 26 | 27 | 11 | 11 |
| Gloucestershire | 17 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Greater Manchester | 55 | 65 | 62 | 106 | 93 | 77 | 66 | 47 | 25 | 21 |
| Hampshire | 47 | 79 | 88 | 78 | 81 | 79 | 81 | 82 | 59 | 32 |
| Hertfordshire | 21 | 14 | 25 | 27 | 30 | 35 | 28 | 20 | 29 | 10 |
| Humberside | 14 | 8 | 22 | 24 | 23 | 24 | 16 | 26 | 17 | 19 |
| Kent | 41 | 41 | 59 | 78 | 84 | 80 | 120 | 126 | 66 | 67 |
| Lancashire | 79 | 107 | 160 | 182 | 204 | 194 | 209 | 122 | 75 | 91 |
| Leicestershire | 3 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Lincolnshire | 35 | 55 | 46 | 31 | 40 | 43 | 41 | 47 | 12 | 2 |
| Merseyside | 285 | 192 | 166 | 197 | 163 | 166 | 169 | 128 | 72 | 76 |
| Metropolitan Police | 50 | 49 | 55 | 65 | 102 | 85 | 97 | 65 | 22 | 32 |
| Norfolk | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| North Yorkshire | 10 | 17 | 29 | 26 | 26 | 32 | 33 | 20 | 30 | 26 |
| Northamptonshire | 1 | — | — | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Northumbria | 255 | 315 | 327 | 372 | 366 | 384 | 409 | 467 | 514 | 438 |
| Nottinghamshire | 32 | 36 | 37 | 22 | 32 | 26 | 23 | 14 | 16 | 18 |
| South Yorkshire | 84 | 80 | 100 | 124 | 92 | 116 | 125 | 126 | 53 | 64 |
| Staffordshire[4] | 20 | 14 | 21 | 25 | 16 | 25 | 40 | 22 | 23 | 11 |
| Suffolk | 7 | 5 | 13 | 17 | 25 | 32 | 36 | 34 | 18 | 8 |
| Surrey | 19 | 22 | 13 | 25 | 30 | 33 | 30 | 25 | 26 | 11 |
| Sussex | 27 | 26 | 8 | 39 | 38 | 53 | 61 | 45 | 37 | 33 |
| Thames Valley | 34 | 57 | 46 | 45 | 74 | 63 | 48 | 60 | 39 | 34 |

*Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts for being drunk and disorderly[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2, 3]*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Warwickshire | 26 | 23 | 27 | 20 | 26 | 10 | 14 | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| West Mercia | 37 | 34 | 34 | 35 | 58 | 45 | 31 | 61 | 63 | 51 |
| West Midlands | 41 | 27 | 13 | 30 | 21 | 38 | 42 | 35 | 19 | 40 |
| West Yorkshire | 314 | 157 | 203 | 186 | 165 | 127 | 169 | 65 | 62 | 125 |
| Wiltshire | 8 | 19 | 12 | 19 | 17 | 24 | 25 | 28 | 15 | 13 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 12 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 7 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 17 |
| Gwent | 57 | 23 | 23 | 33 | 29 | 14 | 15 | 24 | 30 | 35 |
| North Wales | 62 | 77 | 87 | 57 | 54 | 73 | 74 | 39 | 31 | 23 |
| South Wales | 79 | 94 | 94 | 78 | 61 | 67 | 43 | 79 | 71 | 37 |
| England and Wales | 1,976 | 2,048 | 2,176 | 2,369 | 2,437 | 2,395 | 2,554 | 2,311 | 1,758 | 1,640 |

[1] Offence under the Criminal Justice Act 1967 S.91.

[2] Data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

*Source:*

RDS—Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

*Number of PNDs issued to offenders aged 16 and 17 for being drunk and disorderly, by police force area, England and Wales 2004 to 2006[1]*

| *Police force area* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | — | 5 | 11 |
| Bedfordshire | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| British Transport police | [2]— | [2]— | 9 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1 | 16 | 11 |
| Cheshire | 39 | 17 | 8 |
| Cleveland | 37 | 61 | 23 |
| Cumbria | 22 | 62 | 55 |
| Derbyshire | 27 | 59 | 64 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | 79 | 110 |
| Dorset | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Durham | 7 | 10 | 6 |
| Essex | 40 | 43 | 46 |
| Gloucestershire | 22 | 14 | 12 |
| Greater Manchester | 7 | 34 | 24 |
| Hampshire | 16 | 65 | 22 |
| Hertfordshire | 19 | 31 | 21 |
| Humberside | 57 | 51 | 70 |
| Kent | 12 | 120 | 134 |
| Lancashire | 207 | 408 | 479 |
| Leicestershire | — | 4 | 1 |
| Lincolnshire | 6 | 6 | 11 |
| London, City of | — | 3 | — |
| Merseyside | 219 | 322 | 332 |
| Metropolitan | 55 | 81 | 77 |
| Norfolk | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| North Yorkshire | 1 | — | 38 |
| Northamptonshire | 17 | 50 | 57 |
| Northumbria | — | 26 | 227 |
| Nottinghamshire | 31 | 27 | 22 |
| South Yorkshire | 106 | 111 | 193 |
| Staffordshire | 36 | 23 | 27 |
| Suffolk | 4 | 28 | 17 |
| Surrey | 2 | 8 | 13 |
| Sussex | 74 | 104 | 75 |
| Thames Valley | 11 | 4 | 19 |
| Warwickshire | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| West Mercia | 3 | 39 | 60 |
| West Midlands | 81 | 101 | 148 |
| West Yorkshire | 64 | 142 | 304 |
| Wiltshire | 6 | 6 | 18 |
| Dyfed Powys | 14 | 20 | 17 |
| Gwent | 4 | 24 | 14 |
| North Wales | 53 | 95 | 139 |
| South Wales | 1 | 23 | 64 |
| England and Wales | 1,328 | 2,354 | 3,009 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Not applicable. The British Transport police began issuing PNDs in 2006.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce excessive consumption of alcohol among people under 21 years of age. [171769]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government are committed to reducing excessive alcohol consumption among young people. In June of this year, the Home Office, Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families jointly launched 'Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy', which builds on lessons learned and progress made since the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England (published in March 2004). The renewed strategy outlines the Government's long-term commitment to tackling alcohol-related harms among young people through a combination of robust enforcement of the law, information and awareness-raising through communications campaigns to help them make informed decisions about alcohol, and treatment for those that need it.

We have recently carried out a "Tackling Under Age Sales of Alcohol" campaign, which saw overall failure rates failing to 14 per cent. and have just begun a "Responsible Alcohol" sales campaign. The Department's recent "Confiscation of Alcohol" campaign to support the commencement of new powers and the use of existing powers in relation to the confiscation of alcohol resulted in large volumes of alcohol being seized from young people drinking in public places. In addition, we launched Alcohol Arrest Referral pilots in Cheshire, Ealing, Manchester and Liverpool in October that aim to reduce re-offending by individuals who have been arrested for alcohol-related offences.

We see information and awareness-raising as key to reducing excessive alcohol consumption by young people. The "Know Your Limits" binge drinking campaign has been successful in raising awareness of the dangers of binge drinking. We will, in the new year, launch the next phase of the Government's alcohol communications campaign, which will seek to raise awareness of units and target the tolerance of drunkenness.

## Animal Experiments: Ministers

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the Ministers in her Department who have had responsibility for animal experiments since 1 May 1997, giving the start and end date of their tenure in each case. [169886]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: The following table lists the available details of Home Office Ministers who have had responsibility for animal experiments since May 1997.

*Approximate date of appointment as Minister responsible for the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986*

| | Minister |
|---|---|
| May 1997 | Lord Williams of Mostyn |
| September 1998 | George Howarth |
| August 1999 | Mike O'Brien |
| May 2001 | Angela Eagle |
| May 2002 | Bob Ainsworth |
| June 2003 | Caroline Flint |
| May 2005 | Andy Burnham |
| May 2006 | Joan Ryan |
| July 2007 | Meg Hillier |

## Animal Experiments: Primates

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often overseas centres, approved to supply non-human primates to human laboratories in the UK, are revisited by her Department's inspectors. [169543]

**Meg Hillier:** The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and the standard conditions placed on project licences allow for the sourcing of laboratory animals (listed in Schedule 2 to the Act) from abroad only if authorised and if no suitable animals are available in the United Kingdom.

Visits by the animals inspectorate are risk based, depending on the need to monitor standards of husbandry and care or the progress of improvements. When appropriate, they are timed to coincide with applications for acceptance or continued acceptance of an overseas centre. The Inspectorate will usually consider a visit necessary before giving advice on the continuing acceptability of a centre, and may regard a visit as appropriate if concerns about an accepted centre are raised.

On this basis, an overseas centre approved to supply non-human primates to designated establishments will be visited about every two to four years, depending on the findings from the previous visit, the need to reassess on site and whether animals are being supplied from the site. Between visits, interim assessments are made from information provided by other visitors and responses to specific questions on current care and accommodation

## Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 177-78W, on anti-terrorism control orders, how many individuals subjected to control orders have been deemed ineligible for employment or other benefits due to the terms of their control order; how much funding these individuals have received in subsistence payments; over what time period; and if she will make a statement. [170729]

**Mr. McNulty:** Since the commencement of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, the Home Office is aware that one individual was assessed as being ineligible for employment related benefits, for a short period, as a result of the terms of the control order. The individual concerned received alternative subsistence payments totalling £240 over an eight-week period in 2006.

## Asylum

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Asylum Case Resolution Programme will be completed. [164790]

**Mr. Byrne:** In his statement on 19 July 2006, my right hon. Friend the previous Home Secretary advised that the Border and Immigration Agency would resolve its backlog of electronic and paper records relating to unresolved asylum cases in five years or less. It remains our intention to conclude all cases by July 2011.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Iraqi and *(b)* Afghan nationals granted asylum in the UK have settled in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland in each of the last six years. [169822]

**Mr. Byrne:** The requested information is not available, as we do not require those granted asylum to live in a particular place.

The closest available information is the number of asylum seekers in receipt of support from the Border and Immigration Agency, broken down by Government office region and local authority. This is published on a quarterly and annual basis and the latest publication, covering the third quarter of 2007, is available on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http:// www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.
Further breakdowns, of those in receipt of support from BIA, by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

### Asylum: Sudan

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on returning Darfuri refused asylum-seekers to Sudan; and if she will make a statement. [164411]

**Mr. Byrne:** All applications for asylum, including those from Darfuris from Sudan are considered on their individual merits against the background of the latest case law and country information. Claimants who meet the definition of a refugee in the 1951 convention are granted asylum. Those, whose applications are refused, have a right of appeal to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. In this way we ensure that protection is afforded to those who need it.

We are investigating the allegations made in a recent Aegis Trust report on ill treatment of returnees. No enforced returns will take place until these investigations are completed.

### Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first-class air travel in the last 12 months. [171245]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department's accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on first class, business class and standard class travel for air travel. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

The Cabinet Office produces the annual list of Cabinet Ministers' overseas travel. The list for 2006-07 was published on 25 July 2007.

### Border and Immigration Agency

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Border and Immigration Agency will provide a substantive reply to the letter of 14 September 2007 from the hon. Member for Aylesbury, reference L1123626 and B25881/7, about Mr. D. L. of Aylesbury. [171368]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* The Border and Immigration Agency responded to the hon. Member for Aylesbury on 1 October 2007 and resent the reply again on 3 December 2007.

### Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward legislation to give the Secretary of State for the Home Department powers to remove the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis from office; what recent representations she has received about the matter; and if she will make a statement. [169456]

**Mr. McNulty:** No. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is satisfied with the existing legislative position on this matter, and has had no representations on it other than this question. My right hon. Friend has made clear her support for Sir Ian Blair.

### Community Support Officers

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what competencies are required of police community support officers. [163834]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Police Could You website (www.policecouldyou.co.uk) contains information and guidelines for potential PCSO applicants, as well as a guide to becoming a police community support officer. This guide lists effective communication, community and customer focus, respect for race and diversity, team working and personal responsibility as key qualities needed to become a PCSO.

As set out in section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002, it is for the chief officer of each force to determine whether a person is suitable for and capable of the role to which he/she is to be deployed. Each chief officer must also ensure that the PCSO is adequately trained to use the powers he/she has been designated.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detained by a police community support officer in each of the last four years; and in how many cases a police officer took charge of the detainee within half an hour of detention. [165650]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is not collected centrally.

### Crime: Young People

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of crimes were committed by persons aged between 16 and 25 years in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 1979, broken down by category of offence. [166712]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Home Office collects statistics on the number of offences recorded by the police in England and Wales but no information is collected on the age of the alleged offenders.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which manufacturers' software is used in her Department. [167227]

**Mr. Byrne:** In the main, the Home Office no longer chooses specific software. There are a large number of computer systems operated by the Department.

The choice of software to meet the business needs of the Home Office now largely rests with its Strategic IST suppliers who are contracted, largely under the private finance initiative (and public-private partnership arrangements), to meet business requirements and provide value for money solutions, including the consideration of open source solutions.

Within our business requirements, the Home Office ensures that any technical choices should meet relevant Government software standards and provide for interoperability with the public and business partners.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining her Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170232]

**Mr. Byrne:** The costs of producing revised corporate guidelines was £21,878.50. This was a one-off cost—there is no annual cost for producing further guidelines.

There are no costs associated with complying with the guidelines. The Home Office logo did not change, so no new stationary was required. The guidelines were created to prevent the creation of new logos and identities with the intention of saving the Department money by enforcing the single Home Office logo use on all communication.

A copy of the corporate guidelines has been placed in the House Library.

### Departmental Private Finance Initiative

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value is of the unitary payments of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by her Department over the lifetime of the contract expressed in constant 2007-08 prices; and if she will make a statement. [164229]

**Mr. Byrne:** Details of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by the Home Department with information on estimated unitary charges for 2007-08 is available on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

The estimated unitary charge is based on 2006-07 actual charges and is not simply repayments for capital value of the project but frequently include other factors such as inflation, service provision, capital repayments and major refurbishment.

To provide information on the unitary payments over the lifetime of the contract expressed in 2007-08 prices and discounted to present value would incur disproportionate costs. On average an appropriate discount rate to use for providing a net present value total would be as set out in the Green Book as real discount rate of 3.5 per cent.

The signed deals list covers unitary charges up until 2033-34 and to update the figures to cover the duration of the contract would incur disproportionate cost.

The Secretary of State has no plans to make a statement.

### Deportation

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU nationals she has been unable to deport since October 2000 due to *(a)* UK courts finding a real risk of them suffering treatment contrary to Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights on their return and *(b)* her Department accepting that any such deportation would be in breach of Article 3 rights. [169770]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested can only be obtained through the detailed examination of individual case files to ascertain the specific reason for an allowed appeal against deportation or when it has been accepted that deportation should not be pursued. This would incur a significantly disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote a letter to the Home Affairs Committee on 20 November in which she provided an update on the deportation of foreign national criminals and gave the most robust statistical information available. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

### Deportation: Complaints

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the investigation into the alleged mistreatment of Beatrice Guessi during the journey from Yarl's Wood detention centre to Cameroon on 28 August 2007 to be concluded; and if she will make a statement. [170286]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The investigation into the alleged mistreatment of Beatrice Guessi was referred by the Border and Immigration Agency to Hampshire Constabulary and is currently being investigated. If appropriate, the BIA investigation will continue once the outcome of the police investigation is known.

### Deportation: Iran

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were deported to Iran in each of the last five years. [170467]

**Mr. Byrne:** The following table shows the number of people removed to Iran in each year since 2004.

Information on the destination of persons removed from the UK has been collated only since the start of 2004.

Information on the total number of persons removed between January and September 2007 is based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

*Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1] to Iran, January 2004 to September 2007[2]*

| | | | | *Number of removals* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006[3]* | *January to September 2007[3, 4]* |
| Total removals to Iran | 265 | 435 | 550 | 415 |

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and since January 2005 those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five.

[3] Provisional figures.

[4] Figures for January to September 2007 are based on management information, this information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Government were unable to deport a person to Iran because they failed to co-operate with the obtaining of a travel document in each of the last five years. [170468]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

## Deportation: Iraq

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals residing in Scotland were (*a*) issued with deportation orders and (*b*) subject to forced returns to Iraq in each month since January 2006. [169479]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the region of residence at the time of removal or when a deportation order was issued is available only through the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost. The Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote a letter to the Home Affairs Committee on 20 November providing an up-date to information on the deportation of foreign nationals that have committed crimes within the UK. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

## Deportation: Overseas Students

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons rejected for clearance to study proliferation-sensitive subjects under the voluntary vetting scheme were deported in each year since 1997. [171855]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

## Detection Rates

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the clear-up rate for recorded offences in each police district in England and Wales was in each year since 1997. [166809]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is given in the table.

*Detection rates for all recorded crimes, by police force area from 1997 to 2006-07*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1997-98[1]* | *1998-99[1]* | *1999-00[1]* | *2000-01[1]* | *2001-02* | *2002-03[2, 3]* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Avon and Somerset | 26 | 26 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 23 | 24 |
| Bedfordshire | 35 | 35 | 33 | 25 | 27 | 25 | 26 | 23 | 28 | 25 | 22 |
| British Transport Police | | | | | | | 15 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 24 |
| Cambridgeshire | 27 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 27 | 25 |
| Cheshire | 36 | 34 | 37 | 31 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 27 |
| Cleveland | 25 | 23 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 23 | 21 | 24 | 30 | 31 |
| Cumbria | 40 | 41 | 44 | 39 | 34 | 32 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 35 | 36 |
| Derbyshire | 25 | 26 | 31 | 28 | 26 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 28 | 27 | 26 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 32 | 34 | 36 | 35 | 34 | 32 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 27 |
| Dorset | 29 | 30 | 31 | 26 | 25 | 27 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 30 |
| Durham | 31 | 30 | 33 | 32 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 29 | 29 | 27 | 30 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 61 | 62 | 69 | 65 | 63 | 64 | 68 | 47 | 43 | 45 | 45 |
| Essex | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 27 | 31 | 33 |
| Gloucestershire | 24 | 26 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 32 | 33 |
| Greater Manchester | 20 | 20 | 25 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 25 | 25 |

*Detection rates for all recorded crimes, by police force area from 1997 to 2006-07*

*Percentage*

| | *1997* | *1997-98*[1] | *1998-99*[2] | *1999-00*[3] | *2000-01*[3] | *2001-02* | *2002-03*[4,5] | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gwent | 51 | 51 | 55 | 53 | 57 | 55 | 48 | 45 | 42 | 36 | 33 |
| Hampshire | 30 | 30 | 35 | 32 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 24 | 23 |
| Hertfordshire | 32 | 33 | 34 | 27 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 25 | 29 | 26 | 29 |
| Humberside | 20 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 21 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 20 | 23 | 25 |
| Kent | 31 | 31 | 34 | 33 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 23 | 26 | 26 |
| Lancashire | 29 | 29 | 34 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 30 | 32 | 35 |
| Leicestershire | 34 | 34 | 34 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 22 | 25 | 30 | 28 |
| Lincolnshire | 48 | 46 | 40 | 28 | 25 | 27 | 23 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 28 |
| London, City of | 26 | 28 | 33 | 32 | 27 | 34 | 36 | 33 | 36 | 43 | 39 |
| Merseyside | 31 | 31 | 31 | 26 | 28 | 24 | 25 | 27 | 30 | 28 | 29 |
| Metropolitan Police | 26 | 25 | 22 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 21 | 24 | 21 |
| Norfolk | 37 | 36 | 37 | 30 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 26 | 28 | 31 | 30 |
| Northamptonshire | 35 | 35 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 31 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 26 |
| Northumbria | 26 | 26 | 30 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 30 | 29 | 35 | 40 |
| North Wales | 34 | 36 | 43 | 36 | 31 | 28 | 29 | 33 | 42 | 43 | 48 |
| North Yorkshire | 26 | 26 | 33 | 31 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 35 | 35 | 33 |
| Nottinghamshire | 28 | 26 | 25 | 21 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 23 |
| South Wales | 36 | 36 | 39 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 26 | 25 |
| South Yorkshire | 29 | 32 | 32 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 21 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 26 |
| Staffordshire | 35 | 34 | 32 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 31 | 33 | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Suffolk | 37 | 39 | 41 | 36 | 35 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 30 | 31 |
| Surrey | 33 | 35 | 40 | 32 | 28 | 25 | 22 | 22 | 26 | 25 | 30 |
| Sussex | 26 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 25 | 30 | 31 |
| Thames Valley | 24 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 25 | 23 | 26 | 28 | 25 |
| Warwickshire | 27 | 29 | 26 | 22 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 27 | 25 | 27 |
| West Mercia | 28 | 27 | 34 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 33 | 31 | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| West Midlands | 24 | 25 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 26 | 27 |
| West Yorkshire | 27 | 27 | 27 | 25 | 23 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 25 | 28 | 29 |
| Wiltshire | 32 | 32 | 38 | 33 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 32 | 26 |
| Total | 28 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 27 |

[1] The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the coverage and rules in use until 31 March 1998.

[2] The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.

[3] Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999.

[4] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

[5] Includes the British Transport Police from 2002-03 onwards.

*Note*

The overall detection rate remained broadly stable between 2001-02 and 2003-04. It then rose to reach 27 per cent. in 2005-06 and 2006-07. However, the overall detection rate has been affected by forces limiting the usage of non-sanction detections i.e. where a crime is detected but no further action is taken for a variety of reasons.

### Dyfed Powys Police: Resignations

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice was *(a)* sought from and *(b)* given by her Department in the case of the Dyfed-Powys police authority and the resignation of the chief constable of Dyfed-Powys police, Mr. Terence Grange. [170143]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* No advice was sought or given by the Home Office, but the position of the chief constable of Dyfed Powys was discussed as part of regular contact between the police authority and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

### Emergency Calls: Hoaxes and False Alarms

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of emergency calls to the police in 2006-07 were classified as prank calls. [167065]

**Mr. McNulty:** Data on prank calls to emergency services is not collected centrally. This is a matter for the chief constable of each force.

### Entry Clearances: EU Enlargement

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the consequences of European Court of Justice case C-16/05, 2007/C 269/09 on the application of restrictions on entry to Great Britain to nationals of EU applicant states. [170600]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department continues to assess the implications of this judgment in consultation with the Commission and other EU member states.

### European Extradition Warrant

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many European extradition warrants have been served on British citizens in each of the 32 categories of crime covered by the warrants; how many British citizens have been extradited to each EU country under a European extradition warrant; how many British citizens extradited under a European extradition warrant have subsequently been found guilty; and how many extradition requests under the European extradition warrant have been refused by a British court; [163060]

(2) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* longest and *(c)* shortest period is which has elapsed between the receipt in the UK of a European extradition warrant and it being served on the person covered by it. [163331]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answers 12 and 13 November 2007]:* The information which is available without disproportionate cost is as follows.

Since 2004 there have been a total of 900 European arrest Warrant arrests. Of that number 151 were British nationals. There were 122 discharges at court. Of that number, 41 were for British nationals. There have been 533 surrenders. Of that number 64 were British nationals.

The shortest time from certification of an EAW to arrest can be and has been on occasion a matter of hours.

As far as the longest time from certification of an EAW to arrest is concerned, there are EAW warrants dating back to 2004 that are certified but where an arrest has not yet been made. This can be for a number of reasons including lack of intelligence on the location of the individual.

### Foreign Workers: EU Countries

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effects of the impending transition of Schengen area EU states including Poland, Slovakia and Hungary on the unskilled and semi-skilled sectors of the UK labour market. [166693]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* While expansion of the Schengen area may make migration within the Schengen area more attractive to migrants, diverting some who may have come to the UK, this is unlikely to have a big impact on the UK labour market. The Government will continue to monitor migration within Europe.

The UK does not participate in the immigration aspects of the Schengen Acquis. Those travelling from the enlarged Schengen area will be subject to border controls should they wish to enter the UK, just as those travelling from the existing Schengen area do currently.

### Genetics: Databases

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have provided a sample for the DNA database *(a)* following arrest and *(b)* voluntarily to eliminate themselves from suspicion of involvement in an offence. [164664]

**Meg Hillier:** There were an estimated 4,188,033 persons with a DNA profile retained on the national DNA database (NDNAD) on 31 October 2007. Of these, approximately 4,165,300 had provided a DNA sample following arrest and 22,700 had provided a sample voluntarily. These figures are for the whole NDNAD and cover persons sampled by police forces in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and by other UK forces such as the Channel Islands.

Comparable data for forces in England and Wales are as follows.

Approximately 3,916,500 persons with a DNA profile retained on the NDNAD had provided a sample following arrest by police forces in England and Wales; and 21,600 persons provided a sample voluntarily for forces in England and Wales. The number of persons on the database is approximately 13.7 per cent. fewer than the number of subject sample profiles. It is currently estimated that 13.7 per cent. of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. that a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database. Nonetheless, a long-term exercise is under way to identify issues associated with the removal of all such redundant replicate profiles.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were found at each of the main ports of entry to the United Kingdom in 2007. [171193]

**Mr. Byrne:** Illegal entry action is initiated against those people who are detected having entered or attempted to enter the country clandestinely or by means of deception, either verbal or documentary. The following table represent those illegal entrants detected at ports of entry from 1 January 2007 to 30 November 2007.[1]

| *Initiating port* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Ashford | 9 |
| Birmingham International Airport | 2 |
| Brussels Control | 2 |
| Calais Ferryport | 3,199 |
| Calais Hoverport | 1 |
| Cheriton | 10 |
| Coquelles | 721 |
| Dorset Ports Office | 219 |
| Dover East Ports Office | 4 |
| Dunkerque Ports Office | 700 |
| Felixstowe | 86 |
| Heathrow TN3 | 5 |
| Holyhead | 1 |
| Number Ports | 47 |
| Newcastle | 1 |
| Newhaven | 25 |
| North Shields | 2 |
| Plymouth Ports Office | 91 |

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1.*[Official Report, 21 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 13MC.]*

| *Initiating port* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Portsmouth Ports Office | 21 |
| Ramsgate | 2 |
| Tees Ports Office | 5 |
| Tilbury Ports Office | 14 |
| Grand total | 5,167 |

*Note*
The data provided is based on locally collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

### Illegal Immigrants: Employment

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what procedures her Department investigates whether an employer is aware that an employee does not have the right to work in Britain. [169704]

**Mr. Byrne:** All Border and Immigration Agency investigations into potential offences under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 are undertaken in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the guidance in chapter 55 of the Border and Immigration Agency's Operational Enforcement Manual entitled "Preventing illegal working", which is published on the Border and Immigration Agency website.

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firms were *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted for employing illegal workers in 2006 in (i) England and Wales and (ii) the West Midlands. [170203]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information is not available on the number of employers charged for employing a person subject to immigration control; however, information on those proceeded against is available.

Eleven defendants were proceeded against under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 for employing a person aged 16 and above subject to immigration control in England and Wales in 2006; of these, seven were found guilty.

One defendant was proceeded against under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 in the West Midlands police area in 2006; this person was found guilty.

We took steps in 2004 to make the section 8 offence easier to enforce and prosecution activity has increased subsequently. We are committed to bringing forward the implementation of measures contained in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to tackle illegal migrant working, which will provide the Border and Immigration Agency with a wider and more effective range of tools with which to tackle non-compliance. The 2006 Act introduces a system of civil penalties for employers who employ illegal migrants through less than diligent practices, alongside a tough new offence for those who knowingly employ illegal migrants, which will carry a maximum two-year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine. These new measures will come into force on 29 February 2008.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

### Immigration Controls

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her plans are for changing the resident labour market test under the points-based system; and what definition there will be of employment which will be removed from the requirements of the test. [165425]

**Mr. Byrne:** We have not finalised details of how the resident labour market test will work under tier 2 of the points-based system. We are discussing the operation of the test with employer representatives and others, and will publish details of the test in a statement of intent next year.

### Immigration: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in the London Borough of Bexley are awaiting a decision on applications for leave to remain in the UK. [171025]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained in the format required by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

### Immigration: Children

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to help children *(a)* who are HIV positive, *(b)* who have malaria and *(c)* who have tuberculosis and are living in immigration removal centres; and if she will make a statement. [172632]

**Mr. Byrne:** Appropriate treatment is provided to all those who enter immigration removal centres with medical problems and they must have available to them the same range and quality of services as the general public receives from the national health service.

For example, the Healthcare Steering Group, which was set up by immigration removal centre doctors, has issued guidance on how HIV/AIDS patients should be managed and this makes clear that those concerned must be treated in the same way as any other member of the community. The same is true for those who may have malaria or tuberculosis.

We take seriously our responsibility for meeting the health needs of those held in detention. This can be further evidenced through our taking into account the need, in relevant cases, for detainees to be offered malaria prophylaxis before returning to a malaria area.

Individuals who are being removed from the United Kingdom are, where appropriate, provided with sufficient medication until such time as they are able to have access to their own country's health care services. This position applies to adults and children.

### Immigration: Hillingdon

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the London Borough of Hillingdon on removing asylum seekers who have exhausted all appeals. [171116]

**Mr. Byrne:** Engagement with partners and stakeholders is key to delivering our business. Border and Immigration Agency staff at various levels are engaging with the London borough of Hillingdon on a regular basis.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to *(a)* the letter to her predecessor of 29 March 2007, from the hon. Member for Woking regarding Mr. Evans N7737/7 (148492) and *(b)* the question tabled by the hon. Member for Woking on 4 July 2007 on the same subject. [166175]

**Mr. Byrne:** I wrote to the hon. Member on 6 December 2007.

### Metropolitan Police: Complaints

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used in directing complaints relating to the handling of cases by the Metropolitan police to *(a)* the Metropolitan Police Directorate of Professional Standards and *(b)* the Independent Police Complaints Commission; what the outcome has been of the handling of the complaint of Bilan and Hussein Mohamud in relation to the conduct of Kentish Town police station officers; and if she will make a statement. [171397]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Metropolitan police direct all public complaints to their Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS). Under Schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act 2002, the Metropolitan police—and all other police forces in England and Wales—must refer to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) specific complaints or incidents that could damage public confidence in the police. The police and the IPCC have a set of criteria for this process, and those criteria identify the following matters as Mandatory Referrals:

Where direct or indirect contact with the police may have caused or contributed to a person's death or serious injury;

Where a member of the police service is alleged to have committed a serious assault or serious sexual assault;

Where a member of the police service is alleged to have committed an offence that could attract a prison sentence of seven years or more;

Where a member of the police service is alleged to have committed a criminal offence / behaviour aggravated by discrimination;

Serious corruption.

Discretionary referrals, outside of the categories above, can also be made to the IPCC if it is desirable to do so in the public interest. Discretionary referral of conduct matters to the IPCC may be done only with the authority of a DPS officer of the rank of Detective Superintendent or above. The IPCC, which has guardianship of the police complaints system, also has the power to call in an investigation where circumstances justify their involvement.

Bilan and Hussein Mohamud made a number of complaints to the Metropolitan police in December 2005, which were investigated by the DPS; the outcome of that investigation was that all matters were found to be un-substantiated. This was conveyed to the solicitors for Mr. and Mrs. Mohamud in January 2007.

### National Asylum Support Service and the Border and Immigration Agency

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entered National Asylum Support Service and Border and Immigration Agency-supported accommodation in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in each quarter of *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and how many left such accommodation on resolution of their cases in each of those periods. [172046]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records, only at disproportionate cost.

### National Asylum Support Service: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley and *(c)* Greater London received support from the National Asylum Support Service in each of the last five years. [162070]

**Mr. Byrne:** The following table shows the number of asylum seekers recorded as receiving asylum support in Bexleyheath and Crayford, the London borough of Bexley and Greater London as at the end of each year for the last five years.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available on the Home Office research, development and statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns of those in receipt of support, by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

| *As at end of December*[1] | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Bexleyheath and Crayford* | | | | | |
| Subsistence only[2] | n/a | 15 | 10 | 10 | 15 |
| Dispersed | n/a | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | n/a | 15 | 15 | 10 | 15 |
| | | | | | |
| *Bexley* | | | | | |
| Subsistence only[2] | 105 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 55 |
| Dispersed | 10 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 |

| *As at end of December*[1] | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 115 | 85 | 80 | 65 | 60 |
| *Greater London* | | | | | |
| Subsistence only[2] | 28,560 | 22,025 | 14,505 | 10,000 | 8,110 |
| Dispersed | 2,605 | 2,900 | 1,455 | 1,300 | 1,370 |
| Total | 31,165 | 24,925 | 15,960 | 11,300 | 9,480 |

n/a = not available

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

[2] Asylum seekers do not necessarily reside in the area where they are recorded as receiving subsistence support.

### Passports: Fraud

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were arrested in each of the last 18 months in relation to false passport offences attempting to *(a)* enter and *(b)* exit the United Kingdom. [170470]

**Mr. Byrne:** During the period 1 April 2006 until 30 October 2007, a total of 1,949 persons were arrested by the Border Control Criminal Investigation Teams for a range of offences. Within the same period, 930 persons were convicted or cautioned in relation to false passport or identity offences.

Of these, 619 were convicted or cautioned under section 25 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 and 311 were convicted or cautioned under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981.

It is not possible to differentiate between those entering and exiting the country, as records are maintained only of the offences dealt with. Note also that these figures include persons detected by these criminal investigation teams at other stages, such as making applications to the Home Office.

A monthly breakdown of figures is not available from April 2006 to March 2007, however during this period, a total of 1,321 persons were arrested with 611 persons convicted or cautioned in relation to false passport or identity offences.

A monthly breakdown of convictions or cautions for these offences for each subsequent month, this financial period, is available in the table.

It should be noted that the figures provided relate only to prosecutions undertaken by the Border and Immigration Agency Border Control Criminal Investigation Teams. The data provided is based on locally collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

| *2007* | *Section 3, Forgery and Counterfeiting Act* | *Section 25, Identity Cards Act* |
|---|---|---|
| April | 5 | 53 |
| May | — | 53 |
| June | — | 45 |
| July | — | 45 |
| August | — | 43 |
| September | — | 47 |
| October | — | 28 |

### Passports: Lost Property

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK passports were reported as having been lost in each of the last five years. [162053]

**Meg Hillier:** The Identity and Passport Service processed the following reports of lost passports in each of the past five calendar years:

2002: 166,358 combined total including Stolen and Other;

2003:184, 301 combined total including Stolen and Other;

2004: 275,040; Lost 212,745

2005: 286,988; Lost 230,011

2006: 290,996; Lost 237,879

2007: 270,266; Lost 224,873.

The figures for calendar year 2007 are up to 6 November 2007.

### Police Patrolling

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average amount of time police officers in the Essex central area spent on street patrols in the latest period for which figures are available. [171775]

**Mr. McNulty:** 64.8 per cent. of police officer time in Essex was spent on front-line policing in 2006-07. The existing definition of time spent on patrol excludes other front-line activity. Time spent on patrol refers only to time when an officer is patrolling but engaged in no other duty. Any activity (such as advice to a member of the public or responding to antisocial behaviour) carried out while on patrol is recorded separately. This figure therefore provides a more rounded picture of front-line activity by police officers.

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time was spent on patrol by police officers in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997; and what proportion of police officers' working hours those figures represent in each case. [166944]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on time spent on patrol by police officers has been collected only since 2003-04 and is set out in the following table, for England and for the Metropolitan Police. The Home Office does not collect data for individual boroughs.

Time spent on patrol refers only to time when an officer is patrolling but engaged in no other duty. It is inappropriate to look at this element in isolation from other activities.

The front-line policing measure provides a fuller picture of police officer activity because it assesses time spent by police officers on core policing duties such as patrol, responding to 999 calls, as well as activities of CID and specialist officers.

*Table 1*

| | *Percentage patrol* | | *Percentage FLP* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Metropolitan Police* | *England* | *Metropolitan Police* |
| 2006-07 | 13.5 | 12.8 | 64.3 | 61.7 |
| 2005-06 | 14.4 | 12.9 | 63.7 | 61.9 |
| 2004-05 | 15.3 | 13.4 | 62.2 | 62.4 |
| 2003-04 | 14.2 | 13.7 | 62.1 | 65.0 |

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of time on average *(a)* all police officers and *(b)* patrol officers spent on (i) incident-related paperwork, (ii) non-incident-related paperwork, (iii) all paperwork and (iv) patrol in each year since 2001. [166971]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on time spent on patrol and paperwork by police officers has only been collected since 2003-04 and information for England and Wales is set out in the following tables. Table A contains data for all officers and table B for patrol officers.

Time spent on patrol refers only to time when an officer is patrolling but engaged in no other duty. It is therefore inappropriate to look at this element in isolation from other activities. The front-line policing measure provides a fuller picture of police officer activity because it assesses time spent by police officers on core policing duties such as patrol, responding to 999 calls, as well as activities of CID and specialist officers.

*Table A: All officers*

*Percentage*

| *Year*[1] | *Time spent on incident-related paperwork* | *Time spent on non incident-related paperwork* | *Total time spent on paperwork* | *Time spent on patrol*[2] | *Frontline policing measure*[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 10.3 | 9.8 | 20.1 | 14.2 | 62.1 |
| 2004-05 | 9.9 | 8.5 | 18.4 | 15.3 | 62.6 |
| 2005-06 | 10.8 | 8.5 | 19.3 | 14.0 | 63.1 |
| 2006-07 | 11.4 | 8.5 | 19.7 | 13.6 | 64.2 |

*Table B: Patrol officers*

*Percentage*

| *Year*[1] | *Time spent on incident-related paperwork* | *Time spent on non incident-related paperwork* | *Total time spent on paperwork* | *Time spent on patrol* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 18.8 | 18.0 |
| 2004-05 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 16.4 | 19.1 |
| 2005-06 | 8.6 | 7.9 | 16.5 | 17.3 |
| 2006-07 | 9.2 | 7.9 | 17.1 | 17.1 |

[1] Data was not collected before 2003. The information is taken from activity analysis, which is collected by all forces over a two-week period in each year and provides a snapshot of how officers are deployed.

[2] Includes officers on foot/car/beat patrol, CID and traffic officers.

[3] Data was not collected before 2003.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the time spent by police officers on paperwork and administrative tasks; and if she will make a statement. [166996]

**Mr. McNulty:** The time spent by police officers on paperwork and other administrative duties remains an inevitable, but often necessary part of the process of protecting the public. We are, however, taking measures to reduce the time spent on these activities in order to increase the time police officers are able to spend on front line duties. These measures include: improving custody management working practices and processes; streamlining and providing greater local flexibility over performance management requirements; and providing a new £50 million capital fund to support wider access to time and paperwork saving innovative electronic fingerprinting and mobile data technologies.

Reducing bureaucracy is one of the four key strands in Sir Ronnie Flanagan's review of policing. There were 13 recommendations on this area alone in his interim report published in September this year.

### Police: Early Retirement

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines are issued to police authorities on applications for early retirement by senior police officers under investigation. [170144]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* All police officers are entitled to retire after 25 years service (and on full pension after 30 years) unless they are suspended from duty as a result of an investigation into their conduct, when they can retire before the procedures have been concluded only with the agreement of the chief officer or the relevant police authority depending on their rank. The provisions relating to this are contained in regulation 14 and the determination at annex D of the Police Regulations 2003. Guidance, which is available to police forces and police authorities, is contained in the Home Office Guidance on Police Unsatisfactory Performance, Complaints and Misconduct Procedures; there is further clarification of the provisions relating to retirement by officers under investigation/suspension in Home Office circulars 55/2003 and 8/2005, which are available on the Home Office website.

### Police: Emergency Calls

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to respond to an emergency telephone call by police was in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166940]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average police emergency response times were in Hampshire for each year since 1997. [172311]

**Mr. McNulty:** This is a matter for the Chief Constable of Hampshire constabulary.

### Police: Firearms

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Operation Kratos remains in force. [164095]

**Mr. McNulty:** Specialised operational tactics to deal with the threat of a deadly attack are operational matters for the police. The Association of Chief Police Officers published its review of the police response to the threat of suicide terrorism on 7 March 2006, which concluded that tactics to deal with the threat of suicide terrorism remained fit for purpose.

All police use of firearms is subject to the usual law on the use of force. The Criminal Law Act 1967 provides that the police may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances to effect an arrest or to prevent crime. The law applies to the operational tactics developed by police to deal with suspected suicide bombers as it does in any other case.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many armed police officers served each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available. [167416]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the number of armed police officers is not collected by the Home Office. Information on authorised firearms officers is collected at police force area level, and the latest published figures show that on 31 March 2006 there were 2,331 AFOs in the Metropolitan police and 86 in the City of London police.

### Police: Hillingdon

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in the London borough of Hillingdon in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [171089]

**Mr. McNulty:** Police officer figures for Hillingdon have been collected centrally since 2003, and police community support officer figures since 2005. They are shown in the following table.

*Number of police officers and police community support officers in the London borough of Hillingdon: 2003-07*

| *31 March each year* | *Police officers (FTE)*[1] | *Police community support officers (FTE)*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 458 | — |
| 2004 | 484 | — |
| 2005 | 498 | [2]56 |
| 2006 | 506 | [2]56 |
| 2007 | 495 | 84 |

[1] All figures are full time equivalents (FTE) rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Figures relate to 30 June, and are from an ad hoc collection. These figures may not be directly comparable to the others in the table.

### Police: Information and Communications Technology

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent since 1997 on information technology for police forces in Britain; and what UK computer networks exist to ensure that forces are aware of previous criminal activity of people they are investigating. [169843]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is not possible to provide the total expenditure on police Information Technology systems since 1997 as this information is not held centrally.

Police forces use a variety of national computer systems linked to their own networks, to identify individuals that may have been involved in previous criminal activity and to assist their investigations. These comprise:

The Police National Computer (PNC)

IMPACT Nominal Index (INI)

National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IDENT1)

The Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR)

The National Video Identification Database

In addition, police forces can access the National DNA Database, although this is not a database which holds information on previous criminal convictions.

### Police: Manpower

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in England and Wales were in post on the most recent date for which figures are available, broken down by rank; and how many in each rank were *(a)* black and *(b)* Asian. [165672]

**Mr. McNulty:** The most recent date for which figures are available is 31 March 2007; these data are given in the following table:

*Police officer strength (full-time equivalent) in England and Wales, as at 31 March 2007*

| *Police ranks* | *Total all police officers* | *Total Black or Black British* | *Total Asian or Asian British* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACPO[1] | 206 | 1 | 4 |
| Chief Superintendent | 469 | 3 | 6 |
| Superintendent | 987 | 8 | 10 |
| Chief inspector | 1,848 | 10 | 18 |
| Inspector | 7,034 | 35 | 72 |
| Sergeant | 21,949 | 179 | 235 |
| Constable | 109,399 | 1,113 | 1,766 |
| Total all ranks | 141,892 | 1,349 | 2,111 |

[1] ACPO refers to the Association of Chief Police Officers.

*Note:* This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* police ancillary staff were employed in each London borough in each year since 1997. [167410]

**Mr. McNulty:** The requested information has been collected centrally at London borough level since 2003 only. It is shown in the following tables.

*Number of police officers, police community support officers and police staff by London borough: 2003-07*[1]*, as at 31 March each year*

*Table A: Police officers (FTE)*[1]

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 360 | 384 | 419 | 426 | 427 |
| Barnet | 522 | 541 | 561 | 554 | 551 |
| Bexley | 315 | 338 | 383 | 361 | 371 |
| Brent | 619 | 683 | 679 | 667 | 672 |
| Bromley | 417 | 459 | 489 | 484 | 493 |
| Camden | 719 | 794 | 850 | 854 | 812 |

*Number of police officers, police community support officers and police staff by London borough: 2003-07[1], as at 31 March each year*

*Table A: Police officers (FTE)[1]*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of Westminster | 1,565 | 1,637 | 1,617 | 1,572 | 1,561 |
| Croydon | 624 | 659 | 692 | 694 | 684 |
| Ealing | 652 | 697 | 686 | 673 | 681 |
| Enfield | 490 | 538 | 575 | 560 | 582 |
| Greenwich | 604 | 583 | 605 | 615 | 632 |
| Hackney | 673 | 766 | 789 | 767 | 744 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 513 | 516 | 526 | 553 | 562 |
| Haringey | 633 | 682 | 683 | 717 | 689 |
| Harrow | 302 | 333 | 342 | 347 | 354 |
| Havering | 340 | 343 | 383 | 380 | 383 |
| Hillingdon | 458 | 484 | 498 | 506 | 495 |
| Hounslow | 467 | 472 | 510 | 501 | 519 |
| Islington | 623 | 680 | 683 | 685 | 678 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 528 | 575 | 562 | 574 | 568 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 272 | 275 | 298 | 307 | 294 |
| Lambeth | 968 | 941 | 984 | 994 | 953 |
| Lewisham | 571 | 625 | 646 | 549 | 619 |
| Merton | 304 | 339 | 352 | 353 | 377 |
| Newham | 692 | 781 | 782 | 781 | 758 |
| Redbridge | 393 | 440 | 459 | 471 | 467 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 284 | 285 | 287 | 294 | 303 |
| Southwark | 838 | 869 | 891 | 873 | 846 |
| Sutton | 266 | 280 | 291 | 307 | 306 |
| Tower Hamlets | 686 | 760 | 761 | 775 | 756 |
| Waltham Forest | 486 | 533 | 546 | 556 | 543 |
| Wandsworth | 557 | 612 | 582 | 607 | 599 |
| City of London | 434 | 445 | 438 | 438 | 412 |

*Table B: Police community support officers (FTE)[1, 2]*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | — | — | — | — | 78 |
| Barnet | — | — | — | — | 144 |
| Bexley | — | — | — | — | 87 |
| Brent | — | — | — | — | 83 |
| Bromley | — | — | — | — | 131 |
| Camden | — | — | — | — | 64 |
| City of Westminster | — | — | — | — | 335 |
| Croydon | — | — | — | — | 149 |
| Ealing | — | — | — | — | 107 |
| Enfield | — | — | — | — | 119 |
| Greenwich | — | — | — | — | 102 |
| Hackney | — | — | — | — | 66 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | — | — | — | — | 74 |
| Haringey | — | — | — | — | 78 |
| Harrow | — | — | — | — | 82 |
| Havering | — | — | — | — | 83 |
| Hillingdon | — | — | — | — | 84 |
| Hounslow | — | — | — | — | 89 |
| Islington | — | — | — | — | 54 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | — | — | — | — | 105 |
| Kingston upon Thames | — | — | — | — | 60 |
| Lambeth | — | — | — | — | 119 |
| Lewisham | — | — | — | — | 74 |
| Merton | — | — | — | — | 76 |
| Newham | — | — | — | — | 105 |
| Redbridge | — | — | — | — | 95 |
| Richmond upon Thames | — | — | — | — | 69 |
| Southwark | — | — | — | — | 75 |
| Sutton | — | — | — | — | 71 |
| Tower Hamlets | — | — | — | — | 86 |
| Waltham Forest | — | — | — | — | 76 |
| Wandsworth | — | — | — | — | 88 |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | 36 |

*Table C: Police staff (FTE)[1, 3]*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 83 | 85 | 119 | 130 | 83 |
| Barnet | 156 | 152 | 176 | 171 | 121 |
| Bexley | 76 | 98 | 150 | 165 | 114 |
| Brent | 151 | 155 | 165 | 172 | 131 |
| Bromley | 114 | 106 | 139 | 149 | 94 |
| Camden | 193 | 197 | 248 | 265 | 204 |
| City of Westminster | 536 | 518 | 579 | 617 | 348 |
| Croydon | 193 | 169 | 199 | 203 | 164 |
| Ealing | 156 | 168 | 215 | 181 | 133 |
| Enfield | 122 | 136 | 150 | 158 | 117 |
| Greenwich | 149 | 135 | 155 | 172 | 122 |
| Hackney | 161 | 164 | 196 | 204 | 153 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 144 | 115 | 143 | 151 | 118 |
| Haringey | 164 | 177 | 195 | 187 | 145 |
| Harrow | 77 | 82 | 98 | 108 | 83 |
| Havering | 93 | 106 | 120 | 128 | 83 |
| Hillingdon | 105 | 111 | 149 | 145 | 98 |
| Hounslow | 114 | 128 | 154 | 135 | 105 |
| Islington | 136 | 129 | 120 | 131 | 77 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 133 | 146 | 188 | 224 | 126 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 68 | 68 | 87 | 104 | 68 |
| Lambeth | 253 | 250 | 273 | 272 | 205 |
| Lewisham | 168 | 131 | 170 | 188 | 136 |
| Merton | 79 | 75 | 105 | 105 | 84 |
| Newham | 171 | 156 | 208 | 226 | 148 |
| Redbridge | 116 | 106 | 144 | 152 | 100 |

*Table C: Police staff (FTE)[1, 3]*

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Richmond upon Thames | 77 | 92 | 114 | 116 | 83 |
| Southwark | 223 | 214 | 233 | 244 | 194 |
| Sutton | 88 | 78 | 105 | 125 | 80 |
| Tower Hamlets | 161 | 170 | 218 | 250 | 152 |
| Waltham Forest | 131 | 124 | 148 | 157 | 114 |
| Wandsworth | 168 | 149 | 177 | 179 | 129 |
| City of London | 46 | 48 | 67 | 64 | 44 |

[1] All figures are full time equivalents (FTE) rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] PCSO figures included in all police staff totals for 2003-06, as separate figures below police force area collected centrally from 2007 only.

[3] 'All police staff' figures include designated officers, police staff and traffic wardens for the whole period. Also includes PCSOs up to and including 31 March 2006. Figures for 31 March 2007 exclude PCSOs, as they are listed separately in table B above.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police officers were *(a)* men, *(b)* women, *(c)* black and minority ethnic (BME) men and *(d)* BME women in each of the last 10 years. [170585]

**Mr. McNulty:** The requested data are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" which are available online and in the Library of the House.

The available data are given in the following table.

*Proportion[1] of police officers by gender and ethnicity[2] as at 31 March 1998 to 2007*

*Percentage*

| | | | Minority ethnic | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31 March each year | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 1998 | 84.3 | 15.7 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| 1999 | 83.9 | 16.1 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| 2000 | 83.5 | 16.5 | 1.8 | 0.5 |
| 2001 | 82.8 | 17.2 | 1.9 | 0.5 |
| 2002 | 82.1 | 17.9 | 2.1 | 0.5 |
| 2003 | 81.0 | 19.0 | 2.3 | 0.6 |
| 2004 | 79.8 | 20.2 | 2.6 | 0.7 |
| 2005 | 78.8 | 21.2 | 2.8 | 0.8 |
| 2006 | 77.7 | 22.3 | 2.9 | 0.8 |
| 2007 | 76.7 | 23.3 | 3.0 | 0.9 |

[1] Based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals and the sums of constituent items.

[2] Minority ethnic officers only, does not include those officers whose ethnicity is listed as "not stated".

### Police: Racial Violence

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of religious hate crime against police officers were recorded in each police force area in each of the last five years. [172602]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on the number of recorded offences of racially or religiously aggravated offences but details regarding the victim are not collected.

### Police: Vehicles

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of the use of upright electronic personal transporter vehicles by police forces in other countries. [171113]

**Mr. McNulty:** We have no current plans to do so.

### Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will implement the findings of the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission and remove the proscription from the Peoples' Mujahadeen Organisation of Iran. [172754]

**Mr. McNulty:** As we have already made clear, we are disappointed with the judgment handed down by the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission on 30 November, and will be appealing. No action will be taken to remove the Peoples' Mujahadeen Organisation of Iran from the proscribed list in the interim.

### Railways

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171258]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Department's accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on first class and standard class train travel. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

The Cabinet Office produces the annual list of Cabinet Ministers Overseas Travel, and the one for 2006-07 was published on 25 July 2007.

### Terrorism

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on the role of *(a)* Europol and *(b)* other EU institutions in the Bureau de Liaison network for EU-wide information-sharing on terrorist incidents. [170588]

**Mr. McNulty:** Europol has a role to play in combating terrorism across the EU by providing support to the European law enforcement community through their research and analysis capability. By member states providing information to Europol on terrorist incidents, member states can assist that organisation to analyse and identify trends and possible terrorist threats within the EU. It also enables Europol to provide alerts to the law enforcement agencies throughout Europe.

The provision of terrorist incident data to Europol by the law enforcement community also allows them through their analysis of all data they receive, to identify any association or connection between a terrorist suspect and other possible suspects based elsewhere in Europe. Again, Europol must advise national law enforcement of any cross-match identifications.

The Government remain clear that only UK counter-terrorism agencies have an operational and investigative remit but the UK's overall counter-terrorism capacity is strengthened by our close collaboration with international partners including Europol.

The Bureau de Liaison network is a stable and reliable means of exchange of information. All member states, as well as the General Secretariat, Commission and Europol are linked to the liaison office network.

### Terrorism: Detainees

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on periods of detention without charge in relation to counter-terrorism in other EU member states. [164009]

**Mr. McNulty:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs published a document entitled "Counter-Terrorism Legislation and Practice: A Survey of Selected Countries" in October 2005. This can be found at:

www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/QSpercent20Draftpercent2010percent20FINAL1.pdf

We remain informed on the counter-terrorism legislative systems of other European Union countries.

### Terrorism: Expenditure

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on combating terrorism in the UK in each of the last five years. [166492]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* Details of the Home Office's spending on counter-terrorism and intelligence in each of the last five years are set out in Chapter 5 of the 2007 Departmental Report, which can be found on the Home Office website at the following address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-07?version=1

Further information on total Government spending on counter-terrorism is not held by the Home Office.

### Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many social workers are working at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre; how many days they spend a week at the centre; and if she will make a statement. [172634]

**Mr. Byrne:** There are two social workers, employed by Bedford county council, who work mainly at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. They work core office hours from Monday to Friday, spending the majority of their time at the centre.

### Young People

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by her Department *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by her Department. [171271]

**Mr. Byrne:** We are unable to provide data before April 2004 without incurring a disproportionate cost. This is due to a change in the databases used to store and collect staff data in 2004; data before this period are held on the old system.

The following tables show the number of staff aged 16 to 18 that were recruited either directly or through an agency by the Home Office and the Border and Immigration Agency since 31 March 2005.

*1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005*

*Number*

| | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 18* |
|---|---|---|---|
| BIA Permanent | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BIA Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HO Permanent | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| HO Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006*

*Number*

| | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 18* |
|---|---|---|---|
| BIA Permanent | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| BIA Agency | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| HO Permanent | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| HO Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007*

*Number*

| | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 18* |
|---|---|---|---|
| BIA Permanent | 0 | 22 | 41 |
| BIA Agency | 0 | 5 | 31 |
| HO Permanent | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| HO Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 |

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) is unable to provide information on how many staff it employs aged between 16 and 18 years, directly or through recruitment agencies in each of the last 10 years as the personnel management system is inaccessible due to updating during the target period for this question and the records are not held manually.

The Criminal Records Bureau has been in existence only since 2002. Its records show that it has not employed anyone between the ages of 16 and 18.

In answer to the second part of the question regarding training it is not possible to supply data without incurring a disproportionate cost.

We do not routinely invest in training temporary staff beyond the basic need for the post for which they are recruited.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Central Office of Information: Publications

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Cabinet Office first published the Central Office of Information's White Book; when publication of the next edition is planned; and for what reasons the Trades Union Congress is listed in the current edition. [171385]

**Edward Miliband:** The White Book was first published in 1978. The next edition will be published in February 2008.

The White Book contains details of a wide range of information contacts in Government Departments and in many other bodies with which Government deals, including organisations such as the CBI, the BBC and Ofcom. The Trades Union Congress is included as a body that comes under this broad category and has been listed since 1994.

### Data Protection

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps have been taken to establish dark tunnel transfer of sensitive data between Government Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [168612]

**Gillian Merron:** Government Departments and a number of their agencies and non-departmental public bodies have access to the Government Secure Intranet (Gsi); x-Gsi and the Intelligence Management Network for electronic communication among themselves.

### Iraq Conflict

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many studies by the Cabinet Office have been *(a)* started and *(b)* completed into the Iraq war and lessons learnt; and if he will place copies of each in the Library. [169783]

**Edward Miliband:** This is a matter for the Ministry of Defence. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 480W, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence.

### Millennium Volunteers Programme

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 849W, on the Millennium Volunteers programme, which of the first 18 organisations listed *(a)* did not make an application and *(b)* were unsuccessful at the expression of interest stage. [172645]

**Phil Hope:** The organisations that did not submit an application are:

1. Barnsley metropolitan borough council
2. Doncaster metropolitan borough council
3. Family Education Development Trust
4. Leeds college of technology
5. Nottingham city council
6. Youth Voice
7. Hackney Voluntary Action

The following organisations were unsuccessful in applying for funding at expression of interest stage:

8. CEDAR Projects
9. Dearne Valley Venture
10. Henshaws Society for Blind People
11. Read on Write Away
12. Sports Volunteering North West
13. Stoke on Trent college
14. Student Community Action Newcastle (SCAN)
15. Studentforce for Sustainability
16. Torridge Voluntary Services
17. Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency
18. Wycombe Youth Action

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Licensing Act: Town Centres

10. **Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the Licensing Act 2003 on town centres. [172206]

**James Purnell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier.

15. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the Licensing Act 2003 on town centres. [172211]

**James Purnell:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier.

### Access to the Arts

11. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to improve access for young people to arts and culture. [172207]

**James Purnell:** We are committed to giving young people access to high quality cultural activities.

We continue to make significant investment in this area. For example, the Government recently announced a total investment of £332 million in school music over the next three years.

Building on this, in the forthcoming Children's Plan we will set out the steps we will take to give all young people access to five hours of culture a week, in and out of the curriculum.

### Licensing Act 2003

12. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the Licensing Act 2003. [172208]

**James Purnell:** As the Prime Minister reiterated in July, we are monitoring and reviewing the impact of the Act and have been since it came into force. We expect to complete an evaluation of the impact of the Act in the new year.

### Gambling

13. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of internet gaming on problem gambling. [172209]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007 found that 6 per cent. of the adult population has used the internet to gamble in the last year and the total level of problem gambling remains at 0.6 per cent. The Gambling Commission is commissioning further analysis of these findings. I have also asked it to undertake a review of the level of funding and structures for problem gambling research, education and treatment.

### Seaside Towns

14. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on Government policy on heritage and regeneration in seaside towns. [172210]

**Margaret Hodge:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced a new funding programme for coastal resorts last week.

This will see £45 million of investment over three years to help regeneration through heritage and culture.

### Commonwealth Games: Glasgow

16. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support he will provide for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. [172212]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** We are committed to working with the organising company and the Scottish Executive to ensure a successful Commonwealth games in 2014. The UK Government have already provided a number of guarantees to the bid team including agreement in principle to a ban on unauthorised ticket resale for the games to extend to England and Wales.

The Secretary of State has also proposed a regular quadripartite meeting between representatives of the UK Government and the bid partners with a view to determining how the UK Government can offer support to the Glasgow games in reserved policy areas included in the bid document.

### Live Music

17. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the Licensing Act 2003 on the performance of live music. [172213]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department established the Live Music Forum in 2004 to assess, among other things, the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on the performance of live music. In its report and recommendations, published in July 2007, the forum concluded that the impact of the Act had been broadly neutral. The results of the second stage of our own research study into the current provision of live music will be published on the Department's website later this month.

### Community Regeneration

18. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Sport England on the contribution of sport to community regeneration; and if he will make a statement. [172214]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have had no specific discussions with Sport England on this subject.

However I have recently discussed with them how they will develop a new strategy to become more focused on building a world class community sports infrastructure through excellent clubs, coaches and volunteers for all.

Sport is a key player in a number of areas of community social regeneration. Sports projects can have a significant impact by breaking down barriers and providing positive opportunities for people to mix with others. Sport can also help reduce crime and antisocial behaviour; and increase peoples' levels of trust and community involvement.

### Mountaineering

19. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial and other support his Department provides to British mountaineering. [172215]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Between 2005-08, Sport England will have invested almost £635,000 of Lottery and Exchequer funding in the British Mountaineering Council, the national governing body for mountaineering.

In addition, Sport England provides over £1 million per annum towards the Plas-y-Brenin National Mountain Centre in Wales, one of its five national sports centres across the UK; and over £20,000 per annum to the British Mountaineering Council as a management fee for the operation of Harrisons Rocks in Kent.

UK Sport has also given over £145,000 in funding to British mountaineering during 2005-08 to contribute to expeditions and the Mountain Leaders Training UK.

### Video Games

20. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will review the classification system of video games with a view to bringing forward proposals for its improvement. [172216]

**Margaret Hodge:** Dr. Tanya Byron is currently conducting a review into children's access to potentially harmful or inappropriate content on the internet and in video games.

This review will assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures in place and make recommendations for improvements or additional action.

Consideration of any need to review the existing classification system will await Dr. Byron's recommendations, which are expected in March next year. We would not want to prejudge those recommendations.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Ministers from his Department attended the cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism on 11 October; and if he will make a statement. [172410]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** No Ministers attended the meeting on 11 October 2007.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials from his Department attended the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism on 11 October, broken down by grade; and if he will make a statement. [172409]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department contributed fully to consideration of the recommendations of the All-Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism, including attendance by one official at one of the two meetings of the officials' working group convened to consider the Government's response, which was published on 29 March 2007 (Cm 7059). No officials attended the meeting on 11 October 2007.

### Arts: Finance

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to his answer to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 204-06W, on arts: finance, how the total figures allocated for spending on *(a)* the arts and *(b)* heritage by his Department are calculated. [171784]

**Margaret Hodge:** The figures provided in answer to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey's (Mr. Hunt) parliamentary question were extracted from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Audited Appropriation Accounts and Resource Accounts for the years in question. Using the Voted Parliamentary Estimate lines we consolidated the data under the specific headings and then adjusted them to 2007-08 prices using the GDP deflators provided by HM Treasury.

### Departmental Manpower

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of posts in his Department were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172250]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** DCMS is committed to achieving work force reductions of 27 posts by the end of 2007-08. This is a net target and no posts will be reallocated to the frontline as part of it.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170237]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** DCMS does not produce new editions of its guidelines annually so there are no such costs.

The Department has 0.5 full-time equivalent staff responsible for brand management and marketing at an annual cost of £13,000.

The Department will deposit a copy of its guidelines in the Library.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172322]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The DCMS when using standard terms and conditions in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector includes a standard clause that prohibits the assignment of debt.

### Departmental Reviews

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to undertake; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [169500]

**Margaret Hodge:** Details of current and scheduled consultations, reviews and taskforces in my Department are summarised in the following table.

| Name | Type (review, taskforce, consultation) | Start date | Scheduled completion | Purpose |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Current* | | | | |
| Consultation on draft regulations for museums on the publication of information about cultural objects on loan under part 6 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 | Consultation | 21 September 2007 | 21 December 2007 | To invite comments on the content of draft regulations for museums on the publication of information about cultural objects they intend to borrow from abroad for temporary exhibitions and which will be immune from seizure under part 6 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. The consultation also invites views on how far in advance museums should be required to publish the information |
| Consultation on proposal to introduce a simplified process for minor variations to premises licences and club premises certificates | Consultation | 28 November 2007 | 20 February 2008 | To reduce the administrative burden on applicants for making small alterations to premises licences or club premises certificates under the Licensing Act 2003, where those changes will have no impact on the statutory licensing objectives. This is expected to result in cost savings to licence holders of £1.5 - £2.8 million |
| Byron Review | Review reporting jointly to DCMS and the Department for Children, Schools and Families | September 2007 | March 2008 | The aim of the review is to assess the risk to children of exposure to harmful or inappropriate material online and in video games, to assess existing measures of protection and explore what changes or additional actions should be taken |
| McMaster Review of Excellence in the Arts | Review | August 2007 | December 2007 | To consider:<br>How the system of public sector support for the arts can encourage excellence, risk taking and innovation<br>How artistic excellence can encourage wider and deeper engagement with the arts by audiences<br>How to establish a light touch and non-bureaucratic method to judge the quality of the arts in the future |
| Sport England Review | Review | 28 November 2007 | End December 2007 | To review how Sport England will deliver a world-class sporting infrastructure of excellent sports clubs, coaches and volunteers to sustain and increase participation and develop people's talent |
| Regional Work of Public Bodies | Review | 12 November 2007 | Mid-January 2008 | To highlight areas for collaborative working, and identify opportunities for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the regional presence |

| *Name* | *Type (review, taskforce, consultation)* | *Start date* | *Scheduled completion* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| World Heritage Review | Review | March 2007 | March 2008 | To determine our future approach to identifying, protecting, managing and promoting World Heritage Sites in the UK, its Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories |
| Convergence Think Tank | Taskforce | Early 2008 | Late 2008 | To consider the policy implications of convergence in broadcasting and communications |
| Creative and Cultural Education Advisory Board | Taskforce | November 2006 | December 2007 | To construct a more coherent creativity and culture offer that builds strong connections between existing work and the emerging policy contexts |
| Digital Radio Working Group | Taskforce | Early 2008 | December 2008 | To consider the future of digital radio in the UK |
| *Scheduled* | | | | |
| AVMS Directive | Consultation | To be confirmed | To be confirmed | Implementation of certain areas of the new directive by December 2009 |

### Film: Industrial Action

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the impact of strikes by the Writers Guild of America on the British film industry. [171027]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has not made a formal assessment but will continue to monitor the situation closely.

### Football: Corruption

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of levels of corruption in football; and if he will make a statement. [171954]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** We have been clear that the football authorities and clubs must demonstrate modern, competent governance and financial transparency if they are to protect the future integrity of the game.

Good progress has been made and I welcome the introduction of the semi-autonomous Football Regulatory Authority (FRA), the fit and proper persons test for club directors and the FA's revised agents regulations which seek to prevent dual representation and other potential conflicts of interest.

I also welcome Lord Stevens' recent inquiry into transfer dealings and fully support football authorities and City of London police in their on-going investigations in this area.

The Government are committed to ensuring that all clubs are run in the best possible way and can remain a focal point of their local community.

We have invested substantially in Supporters Direct to ensure fans have a central role in this process.

### Licensing Act 2003

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 on town centres. [172399]

**James Purnell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 16 August on his constituent, Mr. C. Metcalf (Ref. 79811); and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [171776]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I plan to facilitate a meeting with key representatives of Ice Hockey early in the new year to discuss issues challenging the sport and the way forward. I will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford in the near future.

### Museums: Finance

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid to museums sponsored by his Department in each year since the introduction of free admission in 2007-08 prices. [171783]

**Margaret Hodge:** The total amounts paid to the 22 museums sponsored by the Department at 2007-08 prices are shown in the table. Free admission for all was introduced in December 2001.

| | *Amount (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 287.21 |
| 2002-03 | 305.68 |
| 2003-04 | 309.65 |
| 2004-05 | 308.33 |
| 2005-06 | 313.35 |
| 2006-07 | 328.86 |
| 2007-08 | 340.30 |

## Olympic Games 2012: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of Olympics Legacy Trust funding will be spent on *(a)* cultural activities and *(b)* sporting activities. [172081]

**James Purnell:** The £40 million endowment for the Legacy Trust is made up of a £6 million grant from DCMS, £5 million from Arts Council England (ACE), £5 million from the Big Lottery Fund (BiG), and £24 million from the Millennium Commission (which has since been transferred to BiG). In its bid for this endowment, the Legacy Trust stated its aim is to spend approximately *(a)* 70 per cent. of its funding on cultural projects and *(b)* 30 per cent. on sporting projects. The trust also stated its aim to support programmes, where possible, that span both arts and sport.

The trust plans to support a small number of national programmes, including the UK School Games, a schools cultural programme, and the World Festival of Youth Culture (working title). There will be one further UK-wide programme (currently under discussion) which will focus on a cultural theme with specific communities and volunteering elements.

The remainder of the endowment (approximately 50 per cent.) will be distributed throughout the three nations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and nine English regions. The ideas for programmes will come from the regions and nations themselves, but the trust is advising them that they should broadly aim for a 70 per cent. culture and 30 per cent. sport split.

While the trust will focus on culture and sport, it is within its remit to support programmes that could be classified as education or physical activity (well being), and to use culture and sport to raise issues of environmental sustainability.

## Olympic Games 2012: Private Sector

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much he expects the private sector to contribute to the Olympics Legacy Trust. [172080]

**James Purnell:** The £40 million endowment for the Legacy Trust is made up of a £6 million grant from DCMS, £5 million from Arts Council England (ACE), £5 million from the Big Lottery Fund (BiG), and £24 million from the Millennium Commission (which has since been transferred to BiG). The aim is to double the endowment to £80 million by 2012.

In the fundraising strategy in its bid for the endowment, the Trust set out the definition of doubling the £40 million endowment to £80 million not just on a cash basis, but via the leveraging of in-kind assistance.

The budget in the fundraising strategy, showing where the Trust anticipates the additional £40 million coming from, is as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Trusts/Foundations | 10 |
| Public Sector/Government | 15 |
| Business/Commerce | 15 |

## Opera: Finance

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the highest award is that the Arts Council for England granted to an amateur operatic society in each of the last five years. [171919]

**Margaret Hodge:** The figures are as follows:

| | *Amateur operatic society* | *Grant (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | Dorset Opera | 5,000 |
| 2004-05 | Opera in the Orchard | 4,840 |
| 2005-06 | Dorset Opera | 5,000 |
| 2006-07 | Opera Minima | 5,000 |
| 2007-08 (to November 2007) | Dorset Opera | 9,000 |

Applicant organisations self-define their status as amateur or professional on the Arts Council's application form.

## Regional Development Agencies: Finance

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department is providing to each of the regional development agencies in 2007-08. [172182]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's contribution towards the funding of regional development agencies (RDAs) is £3.6 million for 2007-08. We are unable to disaggregate the DCMS total to each RDA, as once contributions from Government Departments go into the RDAs' single programme budget, it is not ring-fenced for particular sectors, but is available to the RDAs to spend as they see fit to achieve the regional priorities identified in their regional economic strategies and the targets set by them in their corporate plans.

## Sports: Schools

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of state-funded secondary schools play competitive cricket. [172346]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The school sport survey does not provide data on competition for individual sports. However, we are able to provide the following information:

The 2006-07 school sport survey shows that 98 per cent. of secondary schools offer cricket to their pupils and 77 per cent. of secondary schools have links to a local cricket club.

### Sports: Summertime

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on participation in sport and outdoor recreation of introducing British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer. [172342]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** We have not carried out research to assess the potential effect of introducing British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer on participation rates in sport and outdoor recreation.

### Sports: Young People

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what initiatives and programmes are in place to encourage the development of rowing facilities and encourage the sport among young people before the London 2012 Olympics. [172196]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Amateur Rowing Association is one of the 25 national governing bodies of sport which help to deliver the Step into Sport and Club Links workstrands of the National School Sport Strategy. The National School Sport Survey 2006-07 demonstrated that 7 per cent. of schools offered rowing and 3 per cent. of schools had a link with a rowing club.

Since 2003, Sport England has allocated over £3.2 million of Community Club Development Programme funding to the Amateur Rowing Association to help community sports clubs to develop or redevelop their sports facilities.

### Television: Licensing

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what representations he has received on the continuation of black and white television licences after digital switchover; [169323]

(2) whether the black and white television licence will continue in place *(a)* before, *(b)* during and *(c)* after digital switchover. [169325]

**James Purnell:** Continuation of the black and white TV licence after digital switchover has occasionally been referred to in correspondence. Under the current regulations a black and white licence covers a digital set top box installed and used solely in conjunction with a television set or monitor able to display television programmes in black or white only. We have no plans to change this.

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* black and white and *(b)* colour television licences were issued in each year since 2000. [169324]

**James Purnell:** The number of *(a)* black and white and *(b)* colour television licences in force at March of each year was as follows:

| | *Black and white* | *Colour* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 212,625 | 22,474,018 |
| 2001 | 155,070 | 22,765,568 |
| 2002 | 117,622 | 23,121,842 |
| 2003 | 93,834 | 23,461,130 |
| 2004 | 75,011 | 23,858,786 |
| 2005 | 58,664 | 24,204,055 |
| 2006 | 49,295 | 24,437,516 |
| 2007 | 40,758 | 24,560,034 |

*Note:*
The figure for 2007 is provisional and will be subject to change until March 2008.

### Tourism: Floods

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost of the floods in the summer of 2007 to the tourism industry. [169855]

**Margaret Hodge:** Full estimates of the costs of the flooding to the national tourism industry will not be possible until statistics on domestic holidays and day trips for the whole of 2007 are available next year.

The Southwest and West Midlands Development Agencies have recently commissioned research on the economic costs of the flooding, to include the costs to the tourism industries of these regions.

### VisitBritain

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has allocated to VisitBritain in 2007-08. [172597]

**Margaret Hodge:** DCMS has allocated grant-in-aid of £50.65 million to VisitBritain for 2007-08. This includes £750,000 in additional funding for domestic marketing support following the summer's flooding, and £300,000 for capital expenditure.

### Wombwell and District Amateur Operatic Society: Finance

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant aid Arts Council England awarded to the Wombwell and District Amateur Operatic Society in each of the last five years. [171920]

**Margaret Hodge:** Arts Council England has not awarded a grant to the Wombwell and District Amateur Operatic Society in the last five years.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Business: Non-domestic Rates

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the presence of fire sprinklers is taken into account in business rate valuations. [171589]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 991-92W.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of supplementary business rates on the take up of business improvement districts. [171596]

**John Healey:** It will be for individual local authorities, in developing proposals for business rate supplements, to consider the potential impact on local business and on business improvement districts (BIDs). This will include considering whether there should be an offset for ratepayers contributing to BIDs. Such decisions will need to be determined locally, as circumstances, including potential benefits to be derived from a business rate supplement and BID activities, will depend on the particular case concerned.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a wall-mounted satellite dish is taken into account in the assessment of a business property for business rate purposes. [171586]

**John Healey:** The installation of a wall-mounted satellite dish does not affect a property's rateable value because it is not an item named in The Valuation for Rating (Plant and Machinery) (England) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000 No. 540) and is not, as a consequence, rateable.

### Citizenship: Education

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in preparing and disseminating guidance for teaching materials to be used in citizenship courses in madrassahs; and what the uptake of such material has been amongst the UK's madrassahs. [169614]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Muslim communities in a number of areas have pioneered the development of citizenship programmes in madrassahs, most notably the Nasiha project in Bradford. Like other supplementary schools madrassahs are not specifically regulated. Therefore, we do not have a definitive account of the number of madrassahs that have implemented citizenship curricula. Communities and Local Government and the Department for Children, Schools and Families are working with Muslim communities to develop a programme of work to identify and disseminate good practice and facilitate increased take-up.

### Climate Change

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Climate Change planning Policy Statement will be published. [165210]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) on 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 376W.

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect her departmental responsibilities; and if she will make a statement. [166421]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* My Department has taken a number of steps to build adaptation to the effects of climate change into its policies. These include:

Water scarcity—announcing regulations to be introduced on the water efficiency of new homes;

Flood risk—publishing Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk, and publishing guidance on resilient construction. PPS25 is an important part of climate change adaptation policy, providing a risk-based approach to managing future changes in flood risk to new development due to climate change;

Overheating—Limiting temperature rise by controlling the effects of solar gain through passive measures is one of the five main criteria that have to be met to comply with the energy efficiency requirements of the Building Regulations for new homes. To help limit the reliance for air conditioning due to hotter summers new homes will need to be designed with both hot and cold weather in mind if they are to be zero carbon;

Planning—publishing a draft Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change, which is due to be finalised shortly, and including a duty on planning authorities in relation to climate change in the Planning Reform Bill;

Local Government—consulting on an indicator on climate change adaptation, to be included in the new Local Government Performance Framework;

Emergency response—publishing guidance to the Fire and Rescue Service on responding to the effects of climate change;

Existing buildings—work with the London Climate Change Partnership and the three regions (London, South East, East of England) exploring what needs to happen to homes for purposes of adaptation and resilience.

The Department will be working with Whitehall on the development of a cross-Government Adaptation Framework, due for publication in the spring.

The Climate Change Bill, once enacted, will require Government to report at least every five years on current and predicted impacts of climate change and on its proposals and policy for adapting to these. The Department will consider and address the risks that climate change presents to its policies and programmes as part of that process.

### Community Relations: Christmas

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance and advice she has provided public authorities on celebrating Christmas in a manner conducive to promoting community cohesion; [171556]

(2) what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have given to local authorities on celebrating Christmas; and if she will make a statement. [171561]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government has not provided guidance to local authorities on celebrating Christmas.

### Council Tax

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of those eligible to vote in local elections have *(a)* full and *(b)* partial liability for council tax. [171631]

**John Healey:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Council Tax: Empty Property

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to commission research on the council tax discount on empty properties. [171594]

**John Healey:** Communities and Local Government shortly expects to commission researchers to investigate the extent to which local authorities are exercising their discretionary council tax power in respect of long-term empty homes and the impact this has had.

### Council Tax: Valuation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* qualitative and *(b)* quantitative research the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister commissioned in relation to council tax revaluations prior to the discontinuance of that Office. [171720]

**John Healey:** None.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non EU foreign nationals are employed by her Department. [168112]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining her Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170238]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The corporate identity guidelines for Communities and Local Government are an evolving document available to staff through the Department's intranet. I have placed a copy of the relevant pages in the Library of the House.

For costs relating to corporate identity, I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him today to PQs 167310 and 167352.

Information for our agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in her Department and its agencies. [165232]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The members of the Department's Communications directorate are listed in The White Book, published by COI, which is available in the Library of the House. Information for our agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167310]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In the financial year 2006-07 Communities and Local Government spent *(a)* £533,414.52 on staff working on publicity and *(b)* £35,474.96 on staff working on re-branding following machinery of government changes.

Figures for our agencies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167352]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1420W. Information for our agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish her Department's autumn performance report. [164878]

**Mr. Dhanda:** We published the Departmental autumn performance report on 7 December. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171337]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the "Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers" list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

## Elderly People

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will rank local authorities in order of those with the highest proportion of their populations aged 65 years and over; and if she will make a statement. [170875]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking for the rank of local authorities in order of those with the highest proportion of their populations aged 65 years and over. (170875)

The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006. The attached Table 1 shows the percentage of the population aged 65 and over by Local/ Unitary Authority.

Christchurch has the greatest proportion of the population aged 65 and over at 30%, whilst Tower Hamlets has the lowest proportion (8%).

*Table 1. Percentage of the population of local/unitary authorities in England and Wales aged 65 and over in mid-2006 in descending order*

| *Local/unitary authority* | *Percentage of the population aged 65+* |
|---|---|
| Christchurch | 30 |
| Rother | 28 |
| West Somerset | 28 |
| East Devon | 27 |
| North Norfolk | 27 |
| East Dorset | 26 |
| Tendring | 26 |
| Arun | 26 |
| West Dorset | 25 |
| Berwick-Upon-Tweed | 24 |
| South Shropshire | 24 |
| Conwy UA | 23 |
| Chichester | 23 |
| East Lindsey | 23 |
| New Forest | 23 |
| Eastbourne | 23 |
| Fylde | 23 |
| Lewes | 23 |
| Torbay UA | 23 |
| Wyre | 23 |
| Isle of Wight UA | 22 |
| Purbeck | 22 |
| South Holland | 22 |
| Waveney | 22 |
| South Lakeland | 22 |
| Teignbridge | 22 |
| Kings Lynn and West Norfolk | 22 |
| Scarborough | 22 |
| Penwith | 22 |
| Malvern Hills | 22 |
| Worthing | 22 |
| Wealden | 21 |
| Adur | 21 |
| Torridge | 21 |
| Suffolk Coastal | 21 |
| South Hams | 21 |
| Thanet | 21 |
| Isles of Scilly | 21 |
| Carrick | 21 |
| North Cornwall | 21 |
| Ryedale | 21 |
| Powys UA | 21 |
| Craven | 21 |
| Poole UA | 21 |
| Alnwick | 21 |
| West Devon | 21 |
| Denbighshire UA | 21 |
| Herefordshire UA | 20 |
| North Devon | 20 |
| Broadland | 20 |
| Shepway | 20 |
| Boston | 20 |
| Great Yarmouth | 20 |
| Pembrokeshire UA | 20 |
| Castle Morpeth | 20 |
| South Somerset | 20 |
| Cotswold | 20 |
| Teesdale | 20 |
| Derbyshire Dales | 20 |
| Havant | 20 |
| South Norfolk | 20 |
| North Dorset | 20 |
| Breckland | 20 |
| Bournemouth UA | 20 |
| Isle of Anglesey UA | 20 |
| Eden | 20 |
| Sefton | 20 |
| Weymouth and Portland | 20 |
| Carmarthenshire UA | 20 |
| Bridgnorth | 20 |
| Caradon | 20 |
| Fenland | 20 |
| Mole Valley | 20 |
| Kerrier | 19 |
| Ceredigion UA | 19 |
| Gwynedd UA | 19 |
| Sedgemoor | 19 |
| Stratford-on-Avon | 19 |
| Dover | 19 |
| Restormel | 19 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 19 |
| North Somerset UA | 19 |
| Hambleton | 19 |
| Taunton Deane | 19 |
| Allerdale | 19 |
| Babergh | 19 |
| North Kesteven | 19 |
| Blackpool UA | 19 |

*Table 1: Percentage of the population of local/unitary authorities in England and Wales aged 65 and over in mid-2006 in descending order*

| *Local/unitary authority* | *Percentage of the population aged 65+* |
|---|---|
| Monmouthshire UA | 19 |
| Castle Point | 19 |
| North East Derbyshire | 19 |
| Fareham | 19 |
| Salisbury | 19 |
| Tynedale | 19 |
| Macclesfield | 19 |
| Mid Devon | 19 |
| Wychavon | 19 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | 19 |
| Tewkesbury | 19 |
| West Lindsey | 19 |
| North Shropshire | 19 |
| Wirral | 19 |
| Rochford | 18 |
| Forest of Dean | 18 |
| Brentwood | 18 |
| Oadby and Wigston | 18 |
| Southend UA | 18 |
| South Staffordshire | 18 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham | 18 |
| Oswestry | 18 |
| Neath Port Talbot UA | 18 |
| Wyre Forest | 18 |
| Mid Suffolk | 18 |
| Swansea UA | 18 |
| Carlisle | 18 |
| Bromsgrove | 18 |
| Stroud | 18 |
| West Wiltshire | 18 |
| South Tyneside | 18 |
| Canterbury | 18 |
| Waverley | 18 |
| Stafford | 18 |
| Harrogate | 18 |
| Rutland UA | 18 |
| South Bucks | 18 |
| Chester | 18 |
| Wear Valley | 18 |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 18 |
| Gedling | 18 |
| Ribble Valley | 18 |
| Chiltern | 18 |
| Mendip | 18 |
| Newark and Sherwood | 18 |
| Derwentside | 18 |
| Chesterfield | 18 |
| Gateshead | 18 |
| Wansbeck | 18 |
| North Tyneside | 18 |
| Sevenoaks | 18 |
| Havering | 18 |
| Torfaen UA | 18 |
| Winchester | 18 |
| Barrow-In-Furness | 17 |
| Dudley | 17 |
| South Kesteven | 17 |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | 17 |
| Copeland | 17 |
| North Lincolnshire UA | 17 |
| Easington | 17 |
| St. Edmundsbury | 17 |
| Lichfield | 17 |
| Congleton | 17 |
| Hastings | 17 |
| Solihull | 17 |
| Horsham | 17 |
| Blaenau Gwent UA | 17 |
| Newcastle-Under-Lyme | 17 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 17 |
| Sedgefield | 17 |
| Cheltenham | 17 |
| Tandridge | 17 |
| Spelthorne | 17 |
| The Vale of Glamorgan UA | 17 |
| Stockport | 17 |
| Bolsover | 17 |
| North East Lincolnshire UA | 17 |
| Chester-Le-Street | 17 |
| West Lancashire | 17 |
| Darlington UA | 17 |
| East Hampshire | 17 |
| Melton | 17 |
| Mid Sussex | 17 |
| Amber Valley | 17 |
| Bassetlaw | 17 |
| Lancaster | 17 |
| Bridgend UA | 17 |
| Walsall | 17 |
| Wolverhampton | 17 |
| Maldon | 17 |
| Epping Forest | 17 |
| Gosport | 17 |
| West Oxfordshire | 17 |
| East Cambridgeshire | 17 |
| Broxtowe | 17 |
| Bromley | 17 |
| Doncaster | 17 |
| Hinckley and Bosworth | 17 |
| Rushcliffe | 17 |
| Mansfield | 17 |
| Crewe and Nantwich | 17 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 17 |
| Blaby | 17 |
| Harborough | 17 |
| South Ribble | 17 |
| York UA | 16 |
| Merthyr Tydfil UA | 16 |
| Rugby | 16 |
| Erewash | 16 |
| Rhondda, Cynon, Taff UA | 16 |
| South Oxfordshire | 16 |
| Vale Royal | 16 |
| Epsom and Ewell | 16 |
| St. Helens | 16 |
| Wrexham UA | 16 |
| Kennet | 16 |
| Hartlepool UA | 16 |
| Sunderland | 16 |
| North Hertfordshire | 16 |

*Table 1: Percentage of the population of local/unitary authorities in England and Wales aged 65 and over in mid-2006 in descending order*

| *Local/unitary authority* | *Percentage of the population aged 65+* |
|---|---|
| Three Rivers | 16 |
| Warwick | 16 |
| Maidstone | 16 |
| Barnsley | 16 |
| Newport UA | 16 |
| East Staffordshire | 16 |
| Trafford | 16 |
| North West Leicestershire | 16 |
| Vale of White Horse | 16 |
| North Warwickshire | 16 |
| Rotherham | 16 |
| Uttlesford | 16 |
| Flintshire UA | 16 |
| Ipswich | 16 |
| Sandwell | 16 |
| Ashford | 16 |
| High Peak | 16 |
| Test Valley | 16 |
| Ashfield | 16 |
| Bexley | 16 |
| Reigate and Banstead | 16 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 16 |
| Hertsmere | 16 |
| Plymouth UA | 16 |
| Sheffield | 16 |
| Runnymede | 16 |
| Wakefield | 16 |
| Caerphilly UA | 16 |
| Gravesham | 16 |
| Derby UA | 16 |
| Richmondshire | 16 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 16 |
| Tonbridge and Malling | 16 |
| Elmbridge | 16 |
| Dacorum | 16 |
| Eastleigh | 16 |
| Blyth Valley | 16 |
| Swale | 16 |
| Broxbourne | 15 |
| Burnley | 15 |
| Salford | 15 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 15 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | 15 |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne | 15 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 15 |
| Pendle | 15 |
| Calderdale | 15 |
| North Wiltshire | 15 |
| Selby | 15 |
| Braintree | 15 |
| Bury | 15 |
| Norwich | 15 |
| Hyndburn | 15 |
| Wellingborough | 15 |
| Knowsley | 15 |
| Kettering | 15 |
| Wigan | 15 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead UA | 15 |
| Basildon | 15 |
| Chelmsford | 15 |
| Tameside | 15 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 15 |
| Bolton | 15 |
| Lincoln | 15 |
| Bedford | 15 |
| Warrington UA | 15 |
| Chorley | 15 |
| Guildford | 15 |
| Exeter | 15 |
| Harlow | 15 |
| Gloucester | 15 |
| East Northamptonshire | 15 |
| Charnwood | 15 |
| Brighton and Hove UA | 15 |
| Coventry | 15 |
| Liverpool | 15 |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | 15 |
| St. Albans | 15 |
| Wycombe | 15 |
| Woking | 15 |
| Surrey Heath | 15 |
| Worcester | 15 |
| Durham | 15 |
| Leeds | 15 |
| South Bedfordshire | 15 |
| Cannock Chase | 15 |
| Kirklees | 15 |
| Corby | 15 |
| Colchester | 14 |
| Oldham | 14 |
| Preston | 14 |
| Crawley | 14 |
| East Hertfordshire | 14 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 14 |
| Dartford | 14 |
| Forest Heath | 14 |
| Rochdale | 14 |
| Rossendale | 14 |
| Stevenage | 14 |
| South Derbyshire | 14 |
| Harrow | 14 |
| Cherwell | 14 |
| Sutton | 14 |
| Swindon UA | 14 |
| Huntingdonshire | 14 |
| Portsmouth UA | 14 |
| Peterborough UA | 14 |
| West Berkshire UA | 14 |
| Daventry | 14 |
| South Northamptonshire | 14 |
| Barnet | 14 |
| Cardiff UA | 14 |
| Bradford | 14 |
| Hart | 14 |
| Halton UA | 14 |
| Birmingham | 14 |
| Aylesbury Vale | 14 |
| Northampton | 14 |
| Telford and Wrekin UA | 14 |
| Hillingdon | 13 |

*Table 1: Percentage of the population of local/unitary authorities in England and Wales aged 65 and over in mid-2006 in descending order*

*Table 1: Percentage of the population of local/unitary authorities in England and Wales aged 65 and over in mid-2006 in descending order*

| *Local/unitary authority* | *Percentage of the population aged 65+* |
|---|---|
| Bristol, City of UA | 13 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 13 |
| Southampton UA | 13 |
| Medway UA | 13 |
| Enfield | 13 |
| Basingstoke and Deane | 13 |
| Watford | 13 |
| Wokingham UA | 13 |
| Thurrock UA | 13 |
| Redditch | 13 |
| Redbridge | 13 |
| City of London | 13 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 13 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 13 |
| Croydon | 13 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 13 |
| Tamworth | 13 |
| Rushmoor | 13 |
| Nottingham UA | 12 |
| Reading UA | 12 |
| Leicester UA | 12 |
| Luton UA | 12 |
| Kingston Upon Thames | 12 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 12 |
| Merton | 12 |
| Greenwich | 12 |
| Cambridge | 12 |
| Brent | 12 |
| Manchester | 12 |
| Bracknell Forest UA | 12 |
| Slough UA | 11 |
| Ealing | 11 |
| Oxford | 11 |
| Hounslow | 11 |
| Westminster | 11 |
| Waltham Forest | 11 |
| Milton Keynes UA | 11 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 10 |
| Lewisham | 10 |
| Wandsworth | 10 |
| Southwark | 9 |
| Haringey | 9 |
| Islington | 9 |
| Camden | 9 |
| Hackney | 9 |
| Lambeth | 9 |
| Newham | 8 |
| Tower Hamlets | 8 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

## Elderly: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the population of Herefordshire that are aged 65 years and over, in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [170881]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking the estimate has been made of the population of Herefordshire aged 65 years and over in each year since 1997. (170881)

Table 1 shows the population aged 65 and over for Herefordshire for the years requested.

The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006.

*Table 1: Population aged 65 and over for Herefordshire*

| *Mid-year* | *65+* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 32,000 |
| 1998 | 32,000 |
| 1999 | 33,000 |
| 2000 | 33,000 |
| 2001 | 34,000 |
| 2002 | 34,000 |
| 2003 | 35,000 |
| 2004 | 35,000 |
| 2005 | 36,000 |
| 2006 | 36,000 |

*Note:*
Data are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

## Emergency Services: Hampshire

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average fire and rescue appliance response times were in Hampshire in each year since 1997. [172315]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table shows the average response times taken by the fire and rescue services in Hampshire between 1997 and 2005, the most recent calendar year for which data are available. The table shows the time from the initial call to attendance, and the time from mobilisation to attendance (i.e. the actual driving time).

*Average response time to fires by brigade area and year of call, Hampshire, 1997 to 2005*[1,2,3]

*Minutes*

| | *First call to attendance* | *Mobilisation to attendance* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 6.5 | 6.3 |
| 1998 | 6.7 | 6.2 |
| 1999 | 7.1 | 6.6 |
| 2000 | 6.9 | 6.3 |
| 2001 | 7.0 | 6.3 |
| 2002 | 7.0 | 5.8 |
| 2003 | 7.4 | 6.5 |
| 2004 | 7.4 | 6.2 |
| 2005 | 7.5 | 6.4 |

[1] Excluding late call and heat and smoke damage only incidents.
[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
[3] A small number of incidents with response time greater than an hour have been excluded so that results are not skewed by likely reporting errors.

### Empowerment Champions

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what she expects the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* function and *(c)* annual cost of the proposed empowerment champions to be. [171642]

**John Healey:** Eighteen local authorities are members of the network of empowerment champions. Their purpose is to promote effective empowerment practices so that they are more widely adopted. The function of the network is to achieve this by identifying effective practices, publicising them, and increasing their adoption through a peer learning programme. It will also enable network members to contribute to national learning from their experience. The network's activities will be supported by up to £500,000 a year.

### Empty Property

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties there have been in each local authority area in the East of England in each year since 1997. [169961]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice). (PQ 166966).

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty domestic properties there were in each local authority area in England for the latest year for which figures are available. [166966]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** A table showing the number of vacant dwellings as reported by each local authority in England, at October 2006, has been placed in the Library of the House. The total vacancies and those vacant for longer than six months are presented. Figures are as reported by local authorities through the Council Tax Base (CTB1) form.

### Empty Property: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the vacancy rate was of *(a)* homes, *(b)* social rented homes and *(c)* commercial properties in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [169815]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Vacancy rates for *(a)* all dwellings and *(b)* social rent dwellings for each London borough since 1997 are presented in the following table. Vacancy rates include long-term vacancies (those empty for more than six months) and short-term vacancies.

*Vacancy rates of social rent housing (local authority plus registered social landlords) for London boroughs, 1997 to 2006*

| | | | | | | | | | | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| City of London | 2 | 3 | <1 | 1 | 1 | <1 | <1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Barnet | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bexley | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Brent | 3 | 3 | n/a | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Bromley | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Camden | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Croydon | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ealing | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Enfield | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Greenwich | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Hackney | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Haringey | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Harrow | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Havering | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Hillingdon | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Hounslow | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Islington | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Lambeth | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Lewisham | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Merton | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Newham | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Redbridge | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Southwark | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Sutton | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Tower Hamlets | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

*Vacancy rates of social rent housing (local authority plus registered social landlords) for London boroughs, 1997 to 2006*

*Percentage*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Waltham Forest | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Wandsworth | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Westminster | 4 | 4 | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

n/a = data not available

*Sources:*

Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix as reported by local authorities as at 1 April

Regulatory Statistical Return from the Housing Corporation as at 31 March

*Total vacancy rates for all housing, London boroughs, 1997 to 2006*

*Percentage*

| | | | *1 April* | | | | *October* | | *November* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| City of London | 1 | 1 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Barnet | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Bexley | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Brent | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Bromley | 3 | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Camden | 4 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Croydon | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Ealing | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Enfield | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Greenwich | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Hackney | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Haringey | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Harrow | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Havering | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Hillingdon | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Hounslow | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Islington | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 11 | n/a | 2 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Kingston upon Thames | n/a | n/a | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Lambeth | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Lewisham | 5 | n/a | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Merton | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Newham | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Redbridge | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Southwark | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Sutton | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Waltham Forest | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Wandsworth | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | n/a | n/a | 2 | 2 |
| Westminster | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

n/a = data not available

*Sources:*

For 1997-2001 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix as reported by local authorities

2002-06 Council tax base return from local authorities

Estimated vacancy rates for *(c)* commercial and industrial properties are available for 1998-99 to 2004-05 and are presented in the following table.

These estimated vacancy rates are derived from the amount of business rate relief given for empty and partially empty properties in each local authority as reported in financial returns to Communities and Local Government.

*Estimated vacancy rates of commercial and industrial property, London boroughs, 1998-99 to 2004-05*

*Percentage*

| | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of London | 8 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 16 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 9 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 11 |
| Barnet | 6 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Bexley | 8 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 8 |

*Estimated vacancy rates of commercial and industrial property: London boroughs, 1998-99 to 2004-05*

| | | | | | | | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* |
| Brent | 12 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 19 | 16 | 16 |
| Bromley | 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Camden | 12 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 10 |
| Croydon | 9 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| Ealing | 12 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Enfield | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| Greenwich | 9 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| Hackney | 30 | 28 | 24 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 28 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 11 |
| Haringey | 14 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Harrow | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Havering | 10 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Hillingdon | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Hounslow | 14 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 15 | 17 | 15 |
| Islington | 12 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 13 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 7 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Lambeth | 10 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Lewisham | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 |
| Merton | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Newham | 16 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Redbridge | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Southwark | 11 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 9 |
| Sutton | 7 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 10 |
| Tower Hamlets | 21 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 12 |
| Waltham Forest | 18 | 16 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 14 |
| Wandsworth | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Westminster | 10 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 10 |

## First Time Buyers: Mortgages

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of first-time buyers in *(a)* London, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* England took out a mortgage with a repayment schedule expected to last more than (i) 20, (ii) 25, (iii) 30, (iv) 35, (v) 40 and (vi) 60 years in *(A)* 1997, *(B)* 2000, *(C)* 2003 and *(D)* 2006. [171820]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The proportion of first-time buyers in London, South East and England that took out mortgages expected to last more than 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 60 years for 2006 is shown in the following table.

Data for 1997, 2000 and 2003 is unavailable.

*Proportion of FTBs that took out mortgages expected to last more than 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 60 years, 2006*

| | Greater than 20 | Greater than 25 | Greater than 30 | Greater than 35 | Greater than 40 | Greater than 60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London | 90.13 | 19.47 | 4.71 | 0.31 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| South East | 89.73 | 34.89 | 12.59 | 0.61 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| England | 90.17 | 37.06 | 13.79 | 0.60 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

*Source:*
Regulated Mortgage Survey

## Green Belt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of designated green belt land there were in England in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006, broken down by local planning authority area. [171511]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The number of hectares of designated green belt land in England in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006 broken down by local planning authority is set out in the following tables.

*Area of designated green belt land[1] by local planning authority: 1997*

| *Local planning authority* | *Area (hectares)* |
|---|---|
| Amber Valley | 8,620 |
| Ashfield | 4,710 |
| Aylesbury Vale | 4,760 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 520 |
| Barnet | 2,380 |
| Barnsley | 22,970 |
| Basildon | 6,920 |
| Bath and North East Somerset UA | 21,440 |
| Bexley | 1,130 |
| Birmingham | 4,240 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 1,860 |
| Blackpool UA | 60 |
| Blyth Valley | 170 |
| Bolsover | 1,160 |
| Bolton | 7,270 |
| Bournemouth UA | 710 |
| Bracknell Forest | 3,840 |
| Bradford | 23,120 |
| Brentwood | 13,740 |
| Bridgnorth | 24,440 |
| Bromley | 7,710 |
| Bromsgrove | 19,710 |
| Broxbourne | 3,360 |

*Area of designated green belt land[1] by local planning authority: 1997*

| *Local planning authority* | *Area (hectares)* |
|---|---|
| Broxtowe | 5,190 |
| Burnley | 1,060 |
| Bury | 5,960 |
| Calderdale | 22,980 |
| Cambridge | 1,290 |
| Cannock Chase | 4,840 |
| Castle Morpeth | 12,220 |
| Castle Point | 2,590 |
| Chelmsford | 12,910 |
| Cheltenham | 810 |
| Cherwell | 8,410 |
| Chester | 18,520 |
| Chesterfield | 1,450 |
| Chester-le-Street | 2,820 |
| Chiltern | 17,350 |
| Chorley | 14,590 |
| Christchurch | 3,330 |
| City and County of Bristol UA | 610 |
| City of York UA | 22,460 |
| Congleton | 5,290 |
| Cotswold | 110 |
| Coventry | 3,200 |
| Crewe and Nantwich | 1,210 |
| Croydon | 2,310 |
| Dacorum | 9,760 |
| Dartford | 4,430 |
| Derby UA | 250 |
| Doncaster | 22,610 |
| Dudley | 1,720 |
| Ealing | 320 |
| East Cambridgeshire | 1,910 |
| East Dorset | 16,970 |
| East Hertfordshire | 17,460 |
| East Staffordshire | 40 |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | 3,450 |
| Elmbridge | 5,550 |
| Enfield | 3,090 |
| Epping Forest | 31,690 |
| Epsom and Ewell | 1,560 |
| Erewash | 7,800 |
| Fylde | 1,790 |
| Gateshead | 8,060 |
| Gedling | 9,470 |
| Gravesham | 7,660 |
| Greenwich | — |
| Guildford | 24,190 |
| Halton UA | 2,500 |
| Hambleton | 1,460 |
| Haringey | 50 |
| Harlow | 920 |
| Harrogate | 14,520 |
| Harrow | 1,090 |
| Havering | 6,080 |
| Hertsmere | 8,020 |
| High Peak | 4,050 |
| Hillingdon | 5,230 |
| Hounslow | 1,230 |
| Hyndburn | 4,010 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 640 |
| Kirklees | 25,550 |
| Knowsley | 4,680 |
| Lancaster | 1,740 |
| Leeds | 36,150 |
| Lichfield | 15,020 |
| Liverpool | 540 |
| Luton UA | 130 |
| Macclesfield | 34,320 |
| Maidstone | 530 |
| Manchester | 1,850 |
| Mendip | 730 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 9,490 |
| Mid Sussex | 10 |
| Mole Valley | 19,690 |
| New Forest DC | 51,850 |
| Newark and Sherwood | 6,300 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme | 9,070 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 4,350 |
| Newham | 80 |
| North East Derbyshire | 10,460 |
| North Hertfordshire | 14,250 |
| North Somerset UA | 15,320 |
| North Tyneside | 2,080 |
| North Warwickshire | 17,480 |
| North Wiltshire | 1,800 |
| Nottingham | 750 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | 3,640 |
| Oldham | 6,260 |
| Oxford | 1,300 |
| Pendle | 2,320 |
| Poole UA | 1,900 |
| Preston | 690 |
| Purbeck | 7,300 |
| Redbridge | 2,040 |
| Redditch | 1,830 |
| Reigate and Banstead | 8,800 |
| Ribble Valley | 1,740 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 140 |
| Rochdale | 9,940 |
| Rochester-upon-Medway | 1,340 |
| Rochford | 12,810 |
| Rossendale | 3,150 |
| Rotherham | 20,750 |
| Rugby | 20,610 |
| Runnymede | 6,120 |
| Rushcliffe | 17,240 |
| Ryedale | 160 |
| Salford | 3,380 |
| Sandwell | 820 |
| Sefton | 8,110 |
| Selby | 17,440 |
| Sevenoaks | 34,400 |
| Sheffield | 9,310 |
| Slough | 840 |
| Solihull | 12,040 |
| South Bedfordshire | 18,750 |
| South Bucks | 12,340 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 23,490 |
| South Derbyshire | 2,400 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 23,280 |
| South Oxfordshire | 15,370 |
| South Ribble | 7,900 |
| South Staffordshire | 32,310 |

*Area of designated green belt land[1] by local planning authority: 1997*

| *Local planning authority* | *Area (hectares)* |
|---|---|
| South Tyneside | 2,500 |
| Southend-on-Sea UA | 640 |
| Spelthorne | 3,320 |
| St. Albans | 13,150 |
| St. Helens | 8,920 |
| Stafford | 11,190 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | 17,400 |
| Stevenage | 360 |
| Stockport | 5,900 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 1,710 |
| Stratford-on-Avon | 22,470 |
| Sunderland | 3,490 |
| Surrey Heath | 4,190 |
| Sutton | 640 |
| Tameside | 5,050 |
| Tamworth | 220 |
| Tandridge | 23,300 |
| Test Valley | 290 |
| Tewkesbury | 6,110 |
| Three Rivers | 6,840 |
| Thurrock UA | 11,980 |
| Tonbridge and Malling | 17,090 |
| Trafford | 4,060 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 7,160 |
| Tynedale | 17,350 |
| Uttlesford | 3,810 |
| Vale of White Horse | 8,320 |
| Vale Royal | 15,860 |
| Wakefield | 24,180 |
| Walsall | 3,820 |
| Waltham Forest | 840 |
| Warrington | 11,300 |
| Warwick | 20,040 |
| Watford | 410 |
| Waverley | 21,140 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 10,250 |
| West Lancashire | 27,830 |
| West Oxfordshire | 1,620 |
| West Wiltshire | 5,180 |
| Wigan | 10,680 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 16,470 |
| Wirral | 7,490 |
| Woking | 4,010 |
| Wokingham | 2,890 |
| Wolverhampton | 780 |
| Worcester | 230 |
| Wychavon | 7,280 |
| Wycombe | 15,570 |
| Wyre | 750 |
| Wyre Forest | 11,240 |

[1] Areas less than 5 hectares are shown as '–'.

*Source:*

Communities and Local Government Statistical Releases: Green Belt Statistics, England 1997.

*Area of designated green belt land[1] by local planning authority: 2006*

| *Local planning authority* | *Area (hectares)* |
|---|---|
| Amber Valley | 8,620 |
| Ashfield | 4,520 |
| Aylesbury Vale | 4,800 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 440 |
| Barnet | 2,466 |
| Barnsley | 23,030 |
| Basildon | 6,960 |
| Bath and North East Somerset UA | 21,440 |
| Bexley | 1,120 |
| Birmingham | 4,173 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 5,570 |
| Blackpool UA | 60 |
| Blyth Valley | 2,890 |
| Bolsover | 1,100 |
| Bolton | 7,270 |
| Bournemouth UA | 730 |
| Bracknell Forest | 3,850 |
| Bradford | 23,890 |
| Brentwood | 13,750 |
| Bridgnorth | 24,490 |
| Bromley | 7,710 |
| Bromsgrove | 19,480 |
| Broxbourne | 3,310 |
| Broxtowe | 5,150 |
| Burnley | 1,060 |
| Bury | 5,930 |
| Calderdale | 22,820 |
| Cambridge | 962 |
| Cannock Chase | 4,840 |
| Castle Morpeth | 12,210 |
| Castle Point | 2,750 |
| Chelmsford | 12,890 |
| Cheltenham | 810 |
| Cherwell | 8,410 |
| Chester | 18,520 |
| Chesterfield | 1,430 |
| Chester-le-Street | 2,770 |
| Chiltern | 17,370 |
| Chorley | 14,570 |
| Christchurch | 3,470 |
| City and County of Bristol UA | 610 |
| City of York UA | 22,340 |
| Congleton | 5,290 |
| Cotswold | 110 |
| Coventry | 3,000 |
| Crewe and Nantwich | 1,250 |
| Croydon | 2,310 |
| Dacorum | 10,690 |
| Dartford | 4,110 |
| Derby UA | 250 |
| Doncaster | 23,220 |
| Dudley | 1,770 |
| Durham | 5,690 |
| Ealing | 330 |
| Easington | 280 |
| East Cambridgeshire | 1,910 |
| East Dorset | 16,880 |
| East Hertfordshire | 17,460 |
| East Staffordshire | 40 |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | 3,450 |
| Elmbridge | 5,610 |
| Enfield | 3,010 |
| Epping Forest | 31,680 |
| Epsom and Ewell | 1,560 |
| Erewash | 7,850 |
| Fylde | 1,790 |

*Area of designated green belt land[1] by local planning authority: 2006*

| Local planning authority | Area (hectares) |
|---|---|
| Gateshead | 8,680 |
| Gedling | 9,020 |
| Gravesham | 7,660 |
| Greenwich | — |
| Guildford | 24,110 |
| Halton UA | 2,550 |
| Hambleton | 1,520 |
| Haringey | 60 |
| Harlow | 630 |
| Harrogate | 14,450 |
| Harrow | 1,090 |
| Havering | 6,020 |
| Hertsmere | 8,040 |
| High Peak | 4,000 |
| Hillingdon | 4 960 |
| Hounslow | 1,220 |
| Hyndburn | 4,120 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 640 |
| Kirklees | 25,510 |
| Knowsley | 4,660 |
| Lancaster | 1,730 |
| Leeds | 34,380 |
| Lichfield | 15,220 |
| Liverpool | 540 |
| Luton UA | 140 |
| Macclesfield | 34,080 |
| Maidstone | 530 |
| Manchester | 1,710 |
| Medway UA | 1,340 |
| Mendip | 850 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 9,490 |
| Mid Sussex | 20 |
| Mole Valley | 19,660 |
| New Forest DC | 4,830 |
| Newark and Sherwood | 6,280 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme | 9,420 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 4,390 |
| Newham | 80 |
| North-East Derbyshire | 10,340 |
| North Hertfordshire | 14,060 |
| North Somerset UA | 15,480 |
| North Tyneside | 1,660 |
| North Warwickshire | 17,480 |
| North Wiltshire | 1,800 |
| Nottingham | 750 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | 3,793 |
| Oldham | 6,260 |
| Oxford | 1,300 |
| Pendle | 2,070 |
| Poole UA | 1,900 |
| Preston | 660 |
| Purbeck | 7,300 |
| Redbridge | 2,070 |
| Redditch | 1,830 |
| Reigate and Banstead | 8,800 |
| Ribble Valley | 1,720 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 140 |
| Rochdale | 9,920 |
| Rochford | 12,770 |
| Rossendale | 3,130 |
| Rotherham | 20,650 |
| Rugby | 20,680 |
| Runnymede | 6,140 |
| Rushcliffe | 17,200 |
| Ryedale | 860 |
| Salford | 3,370 |
| Sandwell | 820 |
| Sefton | 7,840 |
| Selby | 19,240 |
| Sevenoaks | 34,380 |
| Sheffield | 9,130 |
| Slough | 830 |
| Solihull | 11,930 |
| South Bedfordshire | 18,720 |
| South Bucks | 12,220 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 23,430 |
| South Derbyshire | 2,390 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 23,230 |
| South Oxfordshire | 15,360 |
| South Ribble | 7,730 |
| South Staffordshire | 32,310 |
| South Tyneside | 2,410 |
| Southend-on-Sea UA | 640 |
| Spelthorne | 3,320 |
| St. Albans | 13,100 |
| St. Helens | 8,880 |
| Stafford | 11,140 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | 17,430 |
| Stevenage | 360 |
| Stockport | 5,840 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 1,790 |
| Stratford-on-Avon | 22,380 |
| Sunderland | 3,490 |
| Surrey Heath | 4,200 |
| Sutton | 620 |
| Tameside | 5,070 |
| Tamworth | 200 |
| Tandridge | 23,280 |
| Test Valley | 0 |
| Tewkesbury | 6,580 |
| Three Rivers | 6,810 |
| Thurrock UA | 11,980 |
| Tonbridge and Malling | 17,060 |
| Trafford | 4,060 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 7,180 |
| Tynedale | 27,440 |
| Uttlesford | 3,810 |
| Vale of White Horse | 8,320 |
| Vale Royal | 17,270 |
| Wakefield | 23,890 |
| Walsall | 3,940 |
| Waltham Forest | 840 |
| Warrington | 11,510 |
| Warwick | 19,950 |
| Watford | 410 |
| Waverley | 21,150 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 10,250 |
| West Lancashire | 32,090 |
| West Oxfordshire | 1,610 |
| West Wiltshire | 5,140 |
| Wigan | 10,650 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 16,520 |

*Area of designated green belt land[1] by local planning authority: 2006*

| *Local planning authority* | *Area (hectares)* |
|---|---|
| Wirral | 7,330 |
| Woking | 4,020 |
| Wokingham | 2,890 |
| Wolverhampton | 800 |
| Worcester | 230 |
| Wychavon | 8,910 |
| Wycombe | 15,620 |
| Wyre | 760 |
| Wyre Forest | 11,210 |

[1] Areas less than 5 hectares are shown as '—'.

*Note:*

The New Forest National Park was created in March 2005. As a result the area of land designated as Green Belt in New Forest District Council has fallen from 51,840 hectares to 4,830 hectares and in Test Valley borough council from 290 hectares to zero.

*Source:*

Communities and Local Government Statistical Releases: Green Belt Statistics, England 2006.

## Homelessness

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of people in England who were *(a)* squatting, *(b)* facing eviction, *(c)* in temporary accommodation, *(d)* living in severe overcrowding and *(e)* staying with friends or family because they have no accommodation at the latest date for which figures are available. [165786]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is as follows.

*Temporary accommodation*

Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people. Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. This data is published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, available on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 September 2007 and contains data for the period April to June 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

The latest figures show that there were 84,900 households in temporary accommodation in England on 30 June 2007. This is down from 101,000 in December 2004.

*Overcrowding*

Over the period 2003-04 to 2005-06 it is estimated, from Survey of English Housing figures, that there were 47,000 households in England living in severely overcrowded conditions.

The benchmark for assessing whether or not a household is overcrowded or severely overcrowded is the Bedroom Standard. This is determined for each household in accordance with its age/sex/marital status composition and the relationship of the members to one another. A separate bedroom is required:

for each married or cohabiting couple;

for any other person aged 21 or over;

for each pair of adolescents aged 10-20 of the same sex;

for each pair of children under 10.

Further, any unpaired person aged 10-20 is paired, if possible with a child under 10 of the same sex, or, if that is not possible, he or she is counted as requiring a separate bedroom, as is any unpaired child under 10.

This standard is then compared with the actual number of bedrooms (including bed-sitters) available for the sole use of the household. Bedrooms converted to other uses are not counted as available unless they have been denoted as bedrooms by the residents. Bedrooms not actually in use are counted unless uninhabitable.

If a household has fewer bedrooms than implied by the standard then it is deemed to be 'overcrowded'. Since one bedroom will be sufficient for single person households and for married/cohabiting couples, these households cannot be overcrowded according to the bedroom standard. If a household has two or more bedrooms fewer than implied by the standard then it is deemed to be 'severely overcrowded'.

The Government are committed to addressing overcrowding and to updating the standards. We have already announced our intention to increase the numbers of affordable housing, including family sized social properties, to help to support a reduction in overcrowding.

*Households facing eviction*

Data from the Ministry of Justice indicate that in the year to 30 September 2007, there were 61,532 outright landlord orders. This figure should not be taken as an indication of how many households have been repossessed through the courts, since not all orders result in actual eviction.

No reliable information on the number of squatters, or people staying with family or friends because they have no accommodation, is collected centrally.

## Housing

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the reasons for the reduction in the number of new residential dwellings built on previously developed land in the last 12 months; and what proportion of new residential dwellings were built on previously developed land in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 in (i) England and (ii) each Government Office Region. [171715]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In 2006, on a provisional estimate, 74 per cent. of all new dwellings were built on previously developed ("brownfield") land, compared to 77 per cent. in 2005. The figures for each region and both years, including and excluding conversions of buildings into dwellings, can be seen in the following table.

Due to the way the data are collected, all statistics are subject to revision, and the 2006 statistics are marked as provisional because they are more susceptible to change. There is an inevitable time-lag between land use change occurring and it being recorded causing these revisions.

The statistics are the best estimates available; however the Department is constantly researching the figures to ensure they are as robust as possible.

No assessment has yet been made of this reduction. The target for development on previously developed land remains 60 per cent. and this is being achieved.

*New dwellings built on previously-developed land*

| | *Excluding conversions* | | *Including conversions* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006*[1] | *2005* | *2006*[1] |
| North East | 69 | 71 | 71 | 72 |
| North West | 81 | 83 | 83 | 85 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 73 | 67 | 77 | 70 |
| East Midlands | 54 | 65 | 60 | 69 |
| West Midlands | 76 | 79 | 79 | 81 |
| East of England | 70 | 64 | 72 | 66 |
| London | 97 | 90 | 97 | 90 |
| South East | [illegible] | 74 | 78 | 76 |
| South West | 62 | 58 | 67 | 63 |
| England | 74 | 72 | 77 | 74 |

[1] Provisional

*Notes:*

1. There is an inevitable time-lag between land use change occurring and it being recorded, therefore data are constantly being updated.

2. The data in the table are based on records received from Ordnance Survey up to June 2007, published in October 2007 in Land Use Change in England to 2006: Additional Tables LUCS-22A.

## Housing Market Pathfinder Programme

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department will respond to the most recent National Audit Office report on the Housing Market Pathfinder programme. [171503]

**Yvette Cooper:** The National Audit Office report has now been considered by the Public Accounts Committee, which will report in due course. The Government will then respond to its recommendations.

## Housing: Public Participation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the responses from external organisations and individuals to the recent Housing Green Paper. [171509]

**Yvette Cooper:** As we indicated in the recent Housing Green Paper, my Department will publish a summary of responses to the consultation on the Green Paper in early 2008.

## Housing: Sales

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what projections she has made of the number of properties with two or more bedrooms to be made available to buy through *(a)* Social HomeBuy, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative in each of the next three financial years; [170355]

(2) what projections she has made of the number of homes to be made available to buy through *(a)* Social HomeBuy, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative in each of the next three financial years. [170356]

**Yvette Cooper:** As stated in our Housing Green Paper, we are aiming to provide at least 25,000 shared ownership and shared equity homes in each of the next three years.

Funding for housing is distributed between the Regions on the basis of an analysis of relative need which takes account of local authority need. Announcements as to the levels of funding to be made available for affordable housing for the next three years will be made shortly.

The funding is being made available to bids from both housing associations, developers and local authorities through the Housing Corporation's bidding round for the National Affordable Housing Programme. Investment in 2008-11 and completions and size of units will depend on the bids received by the Housing Corporation.

## Housing: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's targets for new house-building in England were in each year since 1997-98. [171568]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Detailed housing targets are not directly set by Government, but are set out in regional and local plans which are developed through regional and local planning processes. The Government set the overall strategy for housing supply in England. The 2003 Sustainable Communities Plan set out a target to increase housing supply from 900,000 to 1.1 million in the RPG9 area (the wider South East) over the course of the plan, and the Government's 2005 response to the Barker review of Housing Supply announced an ambition to increase housing supply in England from 150,000 to 200,000 per annum by 2016.

The Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable" (CM 7191), published in July, set out a target to increase housing supply to 240,000 additional homes per annum by 2016.

## Institute for Public Policy Research: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies provided to (a) the IPPR and (b) IPPR Ltd. in relation to community cohesion in the last 24 months; and for what projects. [171612]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government has not commissioned work from IPPR on cohesion in the last 24 months. However, the Commission on Integration and Cohesion did. This was a thinkpiece about challenging attitudes, perceptions and myths, which informed their work and was published on their website. The Commission was funded by Communities and Local Government.

### Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the levy on authorities in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* Greater London by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority was (i) in cash terms and (ii) expressed as the average addition to a Band D council tax bill in each year since 1997-98. [171621]

**John Healey:** Details of the levy raised by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority on authorities in Essex, Hertfordshire and Greater London, both in cash terms and expressed as the average addition to a Band D council tax bill in each year since 1997-98, are shown in the following tables. These data have been provided by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

£

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporation of London | 8,396 | 8,448 | 9,181 | 9,792 | 10,989 | 11,234 |
| *Inner London boroughs* | | | | | | |
| Camden | 202,656 | 203,412 | 209,664 | 215,420 | 223,034 | 227,099 |
| Greenwich | 170,964 | 172,392 | 177,753 | 180,782 | 188,016 | 193,181 |
| Hackney | 146,160 | 151,020 | 156,279 | 162,837 | 114,435 | 139,994 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 179,028 | 178,020 | 181,951 | 184,044 | 190,400 | 195,065 |
| Islington | 167,736 | 167,424 | 171,988 | 174,937 | 181,662 | 189,459 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 213,036 | 215,592 | 222,809 | 228,941 | 235,761 | 239,138 |
| Lambeth | 219,288 | 219,156 | 226,277 | 230,754 | 239,968 | 249,803 |
| Lewisham | 201,432 | 199,536 | 205,159 | 208,426 | 214,838 | 221,163 |
| Southwark | 203,172 | 203,736 | 211,206 | 212,552 | 218,760 | 221,195 |
| Tower Hamlets | 133,800 | 137,004 | 146,492 | 154,641 | 169,451 | 175,502 |
| Wandsworth | 261,408 | 261,168 | 269,405 | 275,851 | 285,477 | 290,469 |
| Westminster | 254,640 | 257,556 | 267,163 | 274,714 | 289,402 | 297,240 |
| *Outer London boroughs* | | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 122,784 | 122,388 | 125,537 | 128,058 | 133,464 | 135,322 |
| Barnet | 316,788 | 316,416 | 325,639 | 333,862 | 346,451 | 351,694 |
| Bexley | 201,324 | 199,260 | 204,289 | 208,058 | 214,419 | 216,982 |
| Brent | 221,184 | 220,812 | 226,303 | 230,176 | 234,871 | 237,944 |
| Bromley | 317,496 | 315,732 | 322,988 | 327,601 | 336,276 | 340,572 |
| Croydon | 296,472 | 298,332 | 307,392 | 313,872 | 322,314 | 328,811 |
| Ealing | 266,376 | 265,668 | 274,105 | 278,322 | 286,418 | 291,071 |
| Enfield | 251,436 | 249,564 | 256,591 | 257,747 | 267,355 | 272,671 |
| Haringey | 193,296 | 191,868 | 196,379 | 199,015 | 205,414 | 208,533 |
| Harrow | 196,776 | 196,164 | 202,277 | 205,720 | 209,692 | 215,493 |
| Havering | 210,528 | 208,152 | 213,718 | 217,076 | 223,138 | 226,886 |
| Hillingdon | 229,032 | 228,096 | 233,902 | 236,614 | 245,858 | 248,388 |
| Hounslow | 190,656 | 192,876 | 197,284 | 200,293 | 203,776 | 209,339 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 144,408 | 144,888 | 149,018 | 151,434 | 156,397 | 157,703 |
| Merton | 175,104 | 173,496 | 177,706 | 180,663 | 185,966 | 188,133 |
| Newham | 150,528 | 151,884 | 157,708 | 160,948 | 171,573 | 177,240 |
| Redbridge | 206,820 | 207,312 | 212,781 | 218,024 | 222,920 | 227,739 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 197,400 | 196,212 | 204,006 | 208,856 | 215,130 | 218,394 |
| Sutton | 170,808 | 170,616 | 174,900 | 177,000 | 181,766 | 184,368 |
| Waltham Forest | 177,072 | 175,128 | 180,339 | 182,302 | 187,264 | 191,367 |
| All London | 6,598,004 | 6,599,328 | 6,798,187 | 6,929,332 | 7,112,654 | 7,279,194 |
| Hertfordshire | 996,996 | 993,948 | 1,025,843 | 1,047,147 | 1,083,538 | 1,100,039 |
| Essex | 1,273,800 | 1,165,872 | 1,208,017 | 1,234,569 | 1,280,441 | 1,304,343 |
| Thurrock | — | 110,976 | 114,953 | 117,852 | 122,366 | 125,323 |
| Southend on Sea | — | 140,376 | — | — | — | — |

| | | | | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* |
| Total levy | 8,868,800 | 9,010,500 | 9,147,000 | 9,328,900 | 9,599,000 | 9,808,900 |
| Levy as Band D equivalent (£) | 2.48 | 2.45 | 2.51 | 2.54 | 2.60 | 2.63 |

| | | | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Corporation of London | 11,903 | 13,336 | 15,413 | 16,627 | 17,737 |
| *Inner London boroughs* | | | | | |
| Camden | 233,592 | 251,497 | 263,388 | 271,694 | 280,054 |
| Greenwich | 199,465 | 208,714 | 221,220 | 228,724 | 235,288 |
| Hackney | 157,839 | 172,874 | 188,172 | 198,974 | 208,145 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 199,821 | 214,202 | 218,165 | 224,928 | 234,198 |
| Islington | 199,389 | 213,903 | 229,370 | 237,103 | 250,750 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 243,908 | 264,219 | 279,600 | 287,966 | 295,470 |
| Lambeth | 259,126 | 267,581 | 283,057 | 293,919 | 302,613 |
| Lewisham | 225,677 | 237,015 | 248,364 | 254,887 | 261,302 |
| Southwark | 229,574 | 244,710 | 260,824 | 272,106 | 278,663 |
| Tower Hamlets | 184,361 | 196,968 | 211,055 | 224,372 | 235,270 |
| Wandsworth | 298,786 | 311,554 | 333,102 | 346,859 | 360,394 |
| Westminster | 304,176 | 337,531 | 358,165 | 374,025 | 386,874 |
| *Outer London boroughs* | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 139,406 | 141,867 | 147,953 | 150,474 | 153,797 |
| Barnet | 361,351 | 375,111 | 393,908 | 401,385 | 410,883 |
| Bexley | 222,766 | 231,569 | 243,202 | 247,688 | 252,231 |
| Brent | 243,655 | 257,427 | 270,299 | 279,409 | 285,063 |
| Bromley | 349,231 | 361,826 | 382,232 | 392,308 | 402,003 |
| Croydon | 336,585 | 342,595 | 361,794 | 367,655 | 377,234 |
| Ealing | 299,097 | 311,945 | 327,384 | 336,162 | 343,818 |
| Enfield | 280,899 | 296,199 | 311,476 | 317,164 | 328,075 |
| Haringey | 214,505 | 226,461 | 242,463 | 248,785 | 256,429 |
| Harrow | 222,697 | 232,444 | 245,358 | 250,529 | 257,820 |
| Havering | 231,844 | 240,544 | 252,608 | 258,568 | 266,490 |
| Hillingdon | 253,751 | 262,301 | 276,119 | 284,082 | 291,508 |
| Hounslow | 215,122 | 228,073 | 243,013 | 249,650 | 255,876 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 161,863 | 168,781 | 176,950 | 181,086 | 185,127 |
| Merton | 192,031 | 199,031 | 208,632 | 213,639 | 219,455 |
| Newham | 184,680 | 193,959 | 207,263 | 211,960 | 217,498 |
| Redbridge | 233,772 | 243,915 | 256,414 | 263,099 | 266,751 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 224,507 | 236,189 | 250,635 | 256,673 | 265,763 |
| Sutton | 188,753 | 195,899 | 206,044 | 212,423 | 219,793 |
| Waltham Forest | 195,074 | 202,601 | 212,237 | 221,577 | 226,187 |
| All London | 7,499,205 | 7,882,839 | 8,325,880 | 8,576,500 | 8,828,559 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,129,826 | 1,177,034 | 1,240,315 | 1,280,431 | 1,320,405 |
| Essex | 1,344,204 | 1,402,009 | 1,481,274 | 1,521,572 | 1,570,743 |
| Thurrock | 129,765 | 136,118 | 144,531 | 150,503 | 155,194 |
| Southend on Sea | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total Levy | 10,103,000 | 10,598,000 | 11,192,000 | 11,529,000 | 11,874,900 |
| Levy as Band D equivalent (£) | 2.68 | 2.78 | 2.91 | 2.97 | 3.04 |

### Local Authorities

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the business plans developed by the six local authorities on her Department's opt out pilot and reports from the opt out pilot group. [168632]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The model business plans developed by the six local authorities who took part in the project to test the costs and benefits of operating outside the housing revenue account subsidy system contain material provided on a confidential basis and therefore will not be published. The project group is however preparing a report for publication which summarises its findings, including data from the model business plans, anonymised where appropriate.

### Local Authorities: Disclosure of Information

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given to the regional chambers on whether they are subject to environmental information regulations, by virtue of carrying out functions of public administration. [171504]

**John Healey:** Guidance on the general principles of voluntary designation was issued to Regional Assemblies by the Minister of Communities and Local Government on 29 March 2006. Paragraph 20 of that guidance states that

"Assemblies should also be mindful of their duties under the Environmental Information Regulations".

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the real terms percentage change in Government funding for local authorities, excluding education spending, was in each year since 1997-98. [171628]

**John Healey:** It is not possible to provide a figure for the amount of Government funding which has been provided for non-education expenditure because a significant proportion of expenditure was funded by Revenue Support Grant and redistributed non-domestic rates. These are not hypothecated to a particular service, and authorities are able to decide on their own spending priorities.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether revenue raised from the local authority business growth incentive scheme is ring-fenced. [171712]

**John Healey:** The Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme is designed to reward local authorities for increasing their business rateable value base by paying grant to authorities where business growth exceeds a certain level. Revenues under the scheme are not ring-fenced in any way.

The Government have published an issues paper on possible reforms to the scheme:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/labgischemereforms

This seeks views from respondents on a wide-range of issues, including on ring-fencing of business growth incentives payments.

### Local Government Finance: Disabled People

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether funding for the disabled facilities grant is included in the Local Government Finance Settlement. [168773]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Funding for Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) does not form part of the Local Government Finance Settlement. An announcement on funding for DFG will be made shortly.

### Local Government Network: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department has made to the Local Government Network in the last 24 months. [171592]

**Mr. Dhanda:** None.

### Planning: Land Use

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which areas of green belt she has earmarked for *(a)* development and *(b)* mitigation; and what areas of brownfield land she expects to be built on in the next 10 years. [165864]

**Yvette Cooper:** Local authorities, rather than the Secretary of State, have primary responsibility for planning and managing development in their areas. Local authorities are responsible for defining their green belt boundaries, in line with national policy, through their development plans. National Government policy on the green belt was confirmed in the Planning White Paper and Housing Green Paper. Government have set a national target that at least 60 per cent. of new housing development should be on brownfield land; currently around three quarters of housing development is on brownfield land.

### Planning: North West Region

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will give guidance to the Government Office for the North West on liaison with hon. Members when major projects in their constituencies are under consideration by the Office. [172799]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Guidance is currently being prepared and will be circulated to all Government Office officials shortly.

### Planning: Public Participation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to produce a summary of responses to the consultation on the recent Planning White Paper. [171507]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Alongside her written statement and publication of the Planning Bill on 27 November, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State published "Planning White Paper Consultation: Government response to consultation replies" which is a summary of consultation replies and the Government's response. The summary can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pwpgovernmentresponse

### Planning: Renewable Energy

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on maintaining the Merton Rule in the forthcoming Climate Change Planning Policy Statement. [164002]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 380W, to the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker).

### Planning: Retail Trade

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to review the needs test in planning guidance on out-of-town retail development. [171713]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As set out in the "Planning White Paper Planning for a Sustainable Future" in May 2007, we are reviewing the current approach in "Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres" (PPS6) to assessing the impact of proposals outside town centres. We will replace the need and impact tests with a new test which has a strong focus on our town centre first policy, and which promotes competition and improves consumer choice, avoiding the unintended effects of the current need test.

It remains our intention to take forward our White Paper commitment, and to consult on revisions to PPS6 in the new year.

### Planning: Schools

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidance and circulars are in force in relation to planning permission for *(a)* new schools and *(b)* expansion of existing schools. [171593]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Planning applications for the development of new schools or the expansion of existing schools need to take account of all of the Government's planning policies.

'Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable development', will be of key relevance. This sets out the Government's overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system and asks local authorities to promote socially inclusive communities by having policies which address accessibility for all members of the community to education, leisure and community facilities.

Other relevant policies include 'Planning Policy Guidance note 13: Transport' (PPG13), which sets out general policy on the location of a range of facilities and car parking provision, and 'Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable development in rural areas' (PPS7) which sets out the Government's policy on community services and facilities in rural areas, including schools. 'Planning Policy Guidance note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' (PPG17) will also be of relevance as it relates to the planning for public and private sports facilities, playing fields and children's play areas. Circular 09/98: 'Town and Country Planning (playing fields) (England) Direction 1998' which relates to the loss of playing fields, whether for schools or for the wider community, will also be directly relevant.

### Population: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will break down the population of Herefordshire, by age group; and if she will make a statement. [170879]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 10 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question asking for the breakdown of the population of Herefordshire by age group. I am replying in her absence. (170879)

Table 1 shows the population by quinary age group for Herefordshire for mid-2006. These are the latest population estimates available.

*Table 1: Mid-2006 population for Herefordshire UA, by quinary age group*

| *Age group* | *Thousand* *Population* |
|---|---|
| All Ages | 178 |
| 0 | 2 |
| 1-4 | 7 |
| 5-9 | 10 |
| 10-14 | 11 |
| 15-19 | 11 |
| 20-24 | 8 |
| 25-29 | 7 |
| 30-34 | 9 |
| 35-39 | 12 |
| 40-44 | 14 |
| 45-49 | 13 |
| 50-54 | 12 |
| 55-59 | 14 |
| 60-64 | 12 |
| 65-69 | 10 |
| 70-74 | 9 |
| 75-79 | 7 |
| 80-84 | 6 |
| 85-89 | 3 |
| 90+ | 2 |

*Note:*
Figures may not add due to rounding.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

### Regional Development Agencies

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities will have in relation to the integrated regional strategies of regional development agencies. [171514]

**John Healey:** The review of sub-national economic development and regeneration published on 17 July makes it clear that regional development agencies will be expected to work closely with local authorities and other partners to develop single regional strategies.

The Government will be consulting on the detailed implementation of regional strategies early in 2008.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the *(a)* composition of the boards and *(b)* procedures used to select board members for regional development agencies will be amended following the transfer of responsibilities for regional housing and planning from regional assemblies. [171643]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

RDA boards will remain business-led bodies. The expanded responsibilities of the RDAs as they assume their new role as the regional planning body, subject to parliamentary approval, will mean that the board will need to have a broader skills-set than at present. This will be reflected in specifications for appointments which are put out for consultation. RDA board appointments will continue to be made in accordance with the code on public appointments.

### Regional Government

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research has been conducted into public *(a)* approval of regional government and *(b)* awareness and approval of Government Office regions. [171508]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* None by this Department or its predecessor, the Office of The Deputy Prime Minister.

*(b)* In 2005 the Government Offices commissioned a survey of stakeholders. This will be repeated in 2008. A copy of the 2005 survey results will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Rented Housing

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish a summary and analysis of the responses to her Department's consultation on the Mechanism for Setting Guideline Rents in Housing Revenue Account subsidy 2008-09 and 2009-10. [164191]

**Yvette Cooper:** The summary and analysis of responses to the August 2007 consultation document 'Mechanism for setting guideline rents in housing revenue account subsidy 2008-09 and 2009-10' will form part of the draft housing revenue account subsidy determination 2008-09, which will be published shortly.

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of her Department's consultation on the 'Mechanism for setting guideline rents in housing revenue account subsidy 2008-09 and 2009-10'. [164193]

**Yvette Cooper:** I have arranged for copies of the August consultation document 'Mechanism for setting guideline rents in housing revenue account subsidy 2008-09 and 2009-10' to be deposited in the Library of the House.

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on tenants of the rental constraint allowance mechanism in the last three years. [164194]

**Yvette Cooper:** The rental constraint allowance (RCA) was part of the housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy regime for 2006-07 and 2007-08. Audited figures for 2006-07 will not be available until January 2008, meaning no formal assessment has been possible so far.

### Schools: Transport

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average cost per capita of school transport in predominantly *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [170878]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The predicted average cost of school transport for the financial year 2007-08 per pupil in predominantly rural and urban local authorities is shown in the following table. The estimated costs are averaged across all pupils attending maintained schools: most do not use school transport. The costs in urban areas mainly relate to transport arrangements made for children with special educational needs.

*The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations 2007, budgeted net expenditure per pupil[1, 2] by local authorities[3] in England on school transport[1]: 2007-08[4], cash terms figures[4, 5] as reported by local authorities as at 30th November 2007*

| | *Budgeted net expenditure on school transport[1] per pupil[2] (£)* |
|---|---|
| England | 120 |
| Predominantly urban local authorities[3] | 110 |
| Predominantly rural local authorities[3] | 200 |

[1] Includes all elements of school transport for school pupils. This is drawn from local authorities' 2007-08 Section 52 Budget Statements (Table 1 lines 1.2.5 - SEN transport, 2.4.6 - Home to school transport [SEN transport] and 2.4.7 - Home to school transport [other home to school transport]).

[2] The January 2007 pupil numbers used to calculate the per pupil amounts are as reported by the local authority on their Section 52 Budget Statement (Table 2 column 13a) comprising of the full-time equivalent number pupils registered at the school used for the initial determination of the school's budget share under the local authority's allocation formula.

[3] The classification of local authorities into those which are predominately urban and predominately rural is based upon The Rural and Urban Area Classification (2004) sponsored by the Countryside Agency (CA), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Welsh Assembly Government. Predominantly rural local authorities are classified as those which consist of more than 50 per cent. rural Output Areas.

[4] 2007-08 data remains provisional and subject to change by the local authority.

[5] Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

### Shared Ownership Schemes

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shared ownership completed sales were facilitated through her Department's homebuy schemes in 2006-07. [171560]

**Yvette Cooper:** There were 14,656 shared ownership completed sales through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme in 2006-07.

### Shared Ownership Schemes: North East Region

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her forecast is of the number of home purchases through *(a)* New Build Homebuy and *(b)* other shared ownership schemes in the North East over the next 12 months; and how many such purchases were made in each case in the last 12 months. [168302]

**Yvette Cooper:** The New Build HomeBuy scheme was launched in April 2006 to enable social tenants, key workers and other priority groups buy a share of a newly built property while paying rent on the remainder.

Details of the number of purchases over the next 12 months are not yet available. The Housing Corporation are currently analysing the bids received for their 2008-11 programme following the bidding round which closed on 2 November.

119 homes have been purchased through the New Build HomeBuy and other share-ownership schemes between April 2006 and September 2007 in the North East.

### Rough Sleepers

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether funding for rough sleepers announced by her Department on 13 November was transferred funding from another area within the Government's spending plans over the last three years. [171590]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The £70 million Places of Change programme announced on 13 November is new funding from the recent comprehensive spending review (CSR) for the next three years. This funding will continue the work over the past three years under the £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme (which runs until March 2008) and will build upon its success. In total, the Department has invested £160 million since 2005 towards helping rough sleepers to move away from the streets and to enable them to move into independent or more appropriate supported accommodation.

### Small Businesses: Non-Domestic Rates

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firms, defined as small businesses, were on the Valuation Office Agency's Ratings List in the latest period for which figures are available. [171528]

**Mr. Dhanda:** There were 1,049,791 non-domestic properties, known as hereditaments, in England as at 17 November 2007 with a rateable value up to £10,000, the threshold for potentially qualifying for relief under the small business rate relief scheme. In addition, there were 57,908 hereditaments with rateable values between £10,001 and £21,499 in Greater London and 130,532 such properties with rateable values between £10,001 and £14,999 outside Greater London who may also qualify to have their rate liability calculated using the small business non-domestic rating multiplier. However, as well as not exceeding the relevant rateable value threshold, one of the conditions for relief is that the ratepayer may occupy only one hereditament in England. Those occupying multiple properties are not therefore eligible for relief, although small hereditaments with a rateable value below £2,200 are disregarded when considering whether the occupancy condition is met.

### Social Rented Housing: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what right tenant management organisations and arm's length management organisations have to obtain antisocial behaviour orders. [167550]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Local authorities have been provided with the discretion to decide whether they wish to delegate some or all of their antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) functions to arm's length and tenant management organisations since 11 May 2007 when regulations were made.

This means an arm's length management or a tenant management organisation may apply to the courts for an ASBO when they and the parent local authority have agreed this is appropriate.

### Standards Board for England: Sustainable Development

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has conducted a sustainability appraisal in the light of the recent relocation announcement of the Standards Board for England. [171062]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* A sustainability appraisal was not conducted when the Standards Board for England recently relocated. The Standards Board for England is not covered by the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets and associated mandates, which include the requirement to conduct sustainability appraisals when relocating offices.

### Tourism: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to promote tourism in the west midlands since 1997. [167512]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has provided the national tourism agency, VisitBritain (and its predecessor bodies), with funding since 1997 to promote Britain internationally, and England domestically, as an attractive tourist destination. The west midlands has benefited from this support for the sector, in common with the rest of the country.

From 1997-98 to 2002-03, funding passed from the English Tourist Council (ETC, formerly the English Tourist Board) to the Heart of England Tourist Board (HETB), which represented both the east and west midlands. In 2003, the regional development agencies, including Advantage West Midlands (AWM), took on strategic responsibility for tourism support in the regions. Since then, AWM has worked with partners in the region to reorganise tourism support structures, including the development of Tourism West Midlands to oversee the delivery of the West Midlands Visitor Economy Strategy, and has allocated revenue funding to the development and promotion of tourism.

AWM has led significant capital investment in tourism infrastructure and facilities through a number of funding streams, including European structural funds. Businesses in the tourism sector also benefit from access to skills and training programmes funded by the Learning and Skills Council, and business support schemes delivered through Business Link West Midlands.

In addition, DCMS has made substantial investment in heritage, arts and culture since 1997. These sectors, in addition to their intrinsic value to the nation's cultural life, benefit the visitor economy by attracting visitors.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Bangladesh: Politics and Government

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* political and *(b)* economic situation in Bangladesh. [172773]

**Dr. Howells:** We welcome the Caretaker government's commitment to hold elections by the end of 2008. Credible elections are vital to sustaining democracy in Bangladesh in the longer term. In creating the conditions for those credible elections, and healthier sustainable democracy, it is vital that the Caretaker government retains respect for individuals' rights and democratic and judicial processes.

The rising cost of living in Bangladesh is a matter of concern for all Bangladeshis. The impact of Cyclone Sidr is expected to place further pressure on the economy. Effective management of the economy will be key over the next year and beyond.

### Bosnia: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the political and security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the High Representative, Miroslav Lajcak. [170329]

**David Miliband:** Our ambassador in Sarajevo routinely discusses the political and security situation in the country with the High Representative Miroslav Lajcak.

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171298]

**David Miliband:** Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

### Crime of Aggression Special Working Group

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 497W, on Crime of Aggression Special Working Group, what the Government's policy is on the proposal that a crime of aggression should not be investigated by the court in circumstances where the Security Council has not made a determination due to the use of the veto by one or more of the permanent members. [172704]

**Dr. Howells:** Under the terms of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court no proposal to amend the Statute may be made until July 2009 at the earliest. If a proposal is made, the Government will give it full consideration in the light of circumstances at the time.

The Government's view, as we continue to state in the Special Working Group, is that any proposal in relation to the crime of aggression must reflect the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security as enshrined in the UN Charter.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many security breaches regarding access to personal data have occurred within his Department in each year since 1997. [169981]

**David Miliband:** It has been the policy of successive Administrations not to comment on security matters other than in exceptional circumstances when it is in the public interest to do so.

### Departmental Manpower

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of posts in his Department were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172253]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to achieving workforce reductions of 310 over the period April 2004 to April 2008. This is a net target and no posts reallocated to the frontline are included in this figure. The target for reduction excludes the FCO public services, Consular and UKvisas, which are fully funded by passport and visas income and have expanded in response to increased demand for their services.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each civil service grade are employed by his Department. [172740]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) publishes diversity statistics for its UK-based staff in its Annual Departmental Report (Table 10). The Office for National Statistics also publishes the statistics in its Annual Civil Service Statistics. The figures from the most recent departmental report (as at 1 February 2007) are:

| *FCO grade* | *Civil service—wide equivalent* | *Men* | *Women* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Senior management structure | Senior Civil Servant | 347 | 72 |
| D Band | Grades 6/7 | 700 | 326 |
| C Band | Senior Executive Officer/ Higher Executive Officer | 1,145 | 720 |
| B Band | Executive Officer | 761 | 782 |
| A Band | Administrative Officer/ Administrative Assistant | 521 | 671 |

Copies of the departmental report are available from the Library of the House.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170234]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not produce guidelines on maintaining its corporate identity.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to undertake; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [170524]

**David Miliband:** Information relating to ad hoc reviews, groups and taskforces is published at www.fco.gov.uk. Information on consultations is published on the 10 Downing street website at:

www.pm.gov.uk

I announced in July a review of priorities for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). This review, alongside the comprehensive spending review and the capability review, provides us with the opportunity to align our departmental priorities, resources and people. Following input from the public and other stakeholders, this exercise is now reaching a conclusion. We are working out the details and will inform Parliament and key stakeholders in due course. In addition the FCO is conducting a number of internal reviews aimed at improving our effectiveness. The FCO is participating in several cross-Whitehall reviews led by other Government Departments.

### Embassies

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British embassies and consulates have been *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in each of the last 10 years; and if he will list the closures by country. [170324]

**David Miliband:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has closed eight British embassies, six British high commissions, and 18 British consulates since May 1997. Operations were also suspended at the British embassy, Abidjan, in April 2005 and the British consulate at Port-au-Prince in July 2005 owing to the security situation there.

During the same period, the FCO opened seven British embassies, four British embassy offices, one British office and six British consulates. Three British consulates were also upgraded to British embassies.

The FCO continuously reviews the deployment of its resources and aligns them flexibly in line with UK interests.

In respect of the missions that have closed in the last 10 years, I refer the right hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon) gave to the hon. Member for Bournemouth, East (Mr. Ellwood) on 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 821-22W. Since this reply was given, the following missions have closed:

In 2006-07, the British high commission in Kingstown, St.Vincent and the Grenadines.

In 2007-08, the British high commissions in St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Georges, Grenada are to be closed.

### EU Reform: Treaties

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the likely training requirements for officials of the EU External Action Service if the Treaty of Lisbon is ratified; [170659]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* size and *(b)* budget of the EU External Action Service if the Treaty of Lisbon is ratified; [170660]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely recruitment procedure for officials of the EU External Action Service if the Treaty of Lisbon is ratified; [170661]

(4) whether his Department will have access to all documents produced by the EU External Action Service after ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon. [170681]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** No decisions have yet been taken on the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS), which will be agreed by member states. It is therefore too early to make an accurate assessment of its size, budget, information sharing procedures, staff training requirements, recruitment process or the funding arrangements for staff seconded from member states' diplomatic services to the EEAS.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that the final version of the European Union Reform Treaty is made available to hon. Members before the Treaty is signed on 14 December. [172173]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The final draft version of the EU Reform Treaty text, which will be prepared for formal signature on 13 December, was sent to the Clerks of the Foreign Affairs Committee, European Scrutiny Committee and the Lords EU Select Committee and to the Libraries of both Houses on 4 December. Once the Treaty is signed it will be laid before Parliament.

### Germany: Foreign Relations

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent bilateral contacts he has had with the Foreign Minister of Germany. [170268]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has frequent meetings and telephone contact with his German counterpart, in London, Berlin and in international fora, not least every month at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council.

We use these contacts to discuss the full range of bilateral, EU and international issues.

I also have regular contact with my German counterpart, Europe Minister Günter Closer and most recently met him during my visit to Berlin in November. Discussions covered the Global Europe agenda, the EU Reform Treaty, Kosovo and the forthcoming EU/Africa Summit.

### Guantanamo Bay: Detainees

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he formally requested the return of British residents from Guantanamo detention facility; when he expects this to occur; and if he will make a statement. [171092]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government requested on 7 August 2007 the release from Guantanamo Bay and return to the UK of five men who, while not UK nationals, were legally resident here prior to their detention. We have made representations to the US in respect of these individuals. In some cases the resulting discussions are still ongoing; and despite media coverage over the weekend we cannot guarantee that representations in respect of any of these individuals will be successful. We are in touch with the families and legal representatives of all five individuals about the status of these discussions.

### India: Abortion

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what checks are initiated by High Commission staff in New Delhi to ensure that no medical staff recommended by the High Commission are involved in practices associated with female foeticide. [172619]

**Dr. Howells:** Our high commission in New Delhi selects doctors on the basis of their professional qualifications and skills, English language proficiency, experience with foreign patients, and on account of their exposure to and acknowledged adherence to a high standard of ethical medical practice. They are interviewed, visited, monitored and regularly assessed by the regional medical officer (a UK general practitioner) and by the health care team at the high commission.

### Languages

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the decision to close his Department's Diplomatic Service Language Centre was made; and if he will make a statement. [170323]

**David Miliband:** I am committed to maintaining the excellent language skills of Diplomatic Service staff and to modernising the ways in which those skills are acquired. Following a review of the provision of language training, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services concluded in 2006 that its language teaching services cost between 15 and 40 per cent. more than comparable providers and that it should no longer provide language teaching services to the FCO.

At the same time, the FCO conducted a policy review of language training which recommended a number of reforms, including more group and in-country teaching. These changes would further increase the cost of in-house teaching. The FCO therefore concluded that it would be a better use of public money to outsource the language teaching requirement. A key element in the new arrangements was a strict quality control and monitoring component to ensure that the quality of teaching was maintained.

My right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) approved the decision to close the Language Centre on 9 March 2007. Since then we have taken a number of further actions to implement this decision, culminating in the closure of the Language Centre in October 2007.

### Languages: Education

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 205W, on languages: education, if he will place in the Library copies of the two reviews FCO Services conducted of its language training provision; and if he will make a statement. [170512]

**David Miliband:** A copy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) review of language training policy (1 May 2007) has been placed in the Library of the House.

The FCO Services review, in relation to the competitiveness of FCO Services' provision of language training, contains commercially sensitive information and therefore will not be placed in the Library of the House.

### Mexico: Human Rights

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Mexico on the safety of human rights defenders in that country with particular regards to Francisco, Emiliana and Alejandro Cerezo; and if he will make a statement. [172158]

**Meg Munn:** The EU has guidelines for the protection of human rights defenders. Human rights and the protection of human rights defenders, is a regular part of the dialogue between our embassy in Mexico City and the Mexican Government.

Specific representations have not been made to the Mexican authorities about Francisco, Emiliana and Alejandro Cerezo. However, our embassy in Mexico City was represented at a meeting with Francisco Cerezo and Peace Brigades International on 3 December along with several other EU member states representatives.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial, *(b)* staffing and *(c)* other resources the Government have provided for the former Prime Minister in his role as Middle East Envoy for the Quartet. [172178]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore) on 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 392W.

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial, *(b)* staffing and *(c)* other resources the Government plan to provide over each of the next three years for the former Prime Minister in his role as Middle East Envoy for the Quartet. [172179]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government will keep under close review how it can best support Mr. Blair's work.

The UK has so far provided £400,000 to a UN Development Programme Trust Fund which provides operational and technical support to Mr. Blair's office in Jerusalem. The UK has also seconded four staff to his team. Other international donors are also supporting his work.

The Government strongly support the work of the right hon. Tony Blair as Quartet representative. He is well placed to drive forward Palestinian capacity building, which is a clear priority. The Middle East Peace Process is one of our top priorities and the UK will continue to support the Quartet (US, EU, UN and Russia) and their representative, Mr. Blair, in their work.

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether details of *(a)* the role of the right hon. Tony Blair as the Middle East Envoy for the Quartet, *(b)* his salary, *(c)* his team, *(d)* his costs and *(e)* funding for the role will be published by the Quartet. [172596]

**Dr. Howells:** The right hon. Tony Blair has been appointed by, and reports to, the Quartet (US, EU, UN and Russia). On 27 June, the Quartet principals announced the right hon. Tony Blair's appointment as Quartet representative. As set out in the Quartet statement of 27 June, his mandate is to:

> mobilise international assistance to the Palestinians, working closely with donors and existing co-ordination bodies;
>
> help to identify, and secure appropriate international support in addressing, the institutional governance needs of the Palestinian state, focusing as a matter of urgency on the rule of law;
>
> develop plans to promote Palestinian economic development, including private sector partnerships, building on previously agreed frameworks, especially concerning access and movement; and
>
> liaise with other countries as appropriate in support of the agreed Quartet objectives.

Mr Blair is not paid a salary.

It will be a matter for the Quartet to determine whether to publish details of Mr. Blair's team, costs and funding.

### Pakistan: Politics and Government

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Pakistan. [169394]

**Dr. Howells:** The progress that has been made in recent weeks in Pakistan is to be welcomed. President Musharraf's announcement of elections on 8 January, his stepping down as Chief of the Army on 28 November and the declaration that the State of Emergency will be lifted on 16 December and the constitution restored are all important steps forward. The UK looks forward to the lifting of all remaining restrictions so that all parties are able to participate fully in the elections. There must be a level playing field for all to ensure the elections are free and fair. We fully support the decision of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala last month to suspend Pakistan from the Councils of the Commonwealth. We hope that Pakistan will rapidly meet the conditions which will allow full membership of the Commonwealth to be restored.

### Russia: Military Aircraft

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Russian government on the recent incident in November when a Russian military aircraft penetrated UK airspace along the Wash. [172172]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Russian military aircraft have not entered UK national airspace without permission and we have not made any representations to the Russian government.

### Russia: Ukraine

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of negotiations between Russia and the Ukraine on the price of gas; and if he will make a statement. [171883]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The hon. Member will be aware that Russia and the Ukraine announced an agreed gas price for 2008 of US$179.5 per 1,000 cubic metres on 4 December 2007. The Government encourage parties to negotiations such as these to come to a commercially viable, transparent price settlement that ensures predictability and reliability of supply, both to domestic and external customers.

### Saudi Arabia

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met representatives of the Saudi Arabian government; and if he will make a statement. [171879]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met his Royal Highness Prince Saud at Annapolis on 26 to 27 November.

### Somalia: Armed Conflict

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations has he received from the government of Ethiopia requesting military *(a)* equipment and *(b)* advice to assist them in operations in Somalia. [171353]

**Meg Munn:** The Government have not received any requests from Ethiopia to provide military equipment for, or advice on, Ethiopia's operations in Somalia. Nor has any such assistance been offered.

### Thomas Hurndall

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he is giving to the Hurndall family in their representations to the Israeli Government of the case of the killing of Tom Hurndall and the subsequent conviction of an Israeli soldier. [171869]

**Dr. Howells:** I understand that the Hurndall family is pursuing a private compensation claim through the Israeli courts. It would not be appropriate for the Government to intervene in a case currently before the courts, but officials continue to encourage the Israeli government to reach a settlement with the family.

I wrote to the Hurndall family on 4 July 2007, to reaffirm our continued interest in a resolution to this case. Officials stand ready to provide any further advice and consular assistance on this matter.

### Timor-Leste: Human Rights

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions he has had in response to the finding in November of the Coroner of New South Wales that British citizens Brian Peters, Malcolm Rennie and other newsmen were killed deliberately in Timor-Leste in 1975; and if he will make a statement. [172874]

**Meg Munn:** Neither my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary nor I have had any discussions nor received any correspondence on the recent verdict of the New South Wales Coroner's Court inquest into the death of Brian Peters. Nor have we had any discussions or received any correspondence regarding Malcolm Rennie or the other journalists killed in 1975.

We have noted the verdict of the inquest which is the outcome of a judicial process run by the New South Wales Coroner's Court. The New South Wales Deputy Coroner has said that she will now refer the matter to the Australian Attorney-General. It will be for the Australian Attorney-General to decide how to take this forward. We will continue to follow this case closely.

### Turkmenistan: Oppression

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations his Department has made to the Turkmenistan authorities on freeing people imprisoned for acts of peaceful political dissent; [171931]

(2) what recent representations his Department has made to the Turkmenistan authorities on allowing independent international monitors free access to places of detention and detainees; [171932]

(3) what recent representations his Department has made to the Turkmenistan Government on that country's use of foreign travel restrictions. [171933]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My hon. Friend the Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks) raised human rights concerns during his visit to Turkmenistan in September. Our embassy in Ashgabat will continue to lobby the Turkmen Government with our EU partners in support of individual cases. Mufti Ibadullah and Geldy Kyarisov were among a number of prisoners of concern who were released this year, after UK and EU lobbying. Maral Yklimova too was allowed to leave the country.

An ad hoc meeting on human rights took place in the margins of the EU's Joint Committee meeting with the Turkmen Government in Ashgabat in September 2007. Issues raised included the importance of allowing the International Committee of the Red Cross access to prisoners, further relaxing restrictions on foreign travel and individual prisoners of concern. Human rights were also raised during President Berdimuhamedov's visit to Brussels in November when he met Mr. Barroso, Mr. Solana and the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Energy Commissioners.

We welcome the action the Turkmen Government has taken so far to begin to relax travel restrictions and to encourage Turkmens to travel and study abroad, but there remains a long way to go. We hope that the recent willingness by the Turkmen Government to engage with the EU, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the UN and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe under President Berdimuhamedov will lead to positive, substantive progress on human rights and democratic reform. We will continue to work with international partners to build on the work the Turkmen Government has begun on fulfilling its human rights obligations through civil society development, good governance and the rule of law.

### Venezuela

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 705W, on Venezuela, what specific assessment he has made of *(a)* the personnel involved and *(b)* the funding streams of the Venezuelan chapter, Transparencia Venezuela, of Transparency International. [172724]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 705W.

### Whales

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek to change international law to prevent whaling being undertaken under the guise of scientific research. [171768]

**Meg Munn:** The UK takes every appropriate opportunity to condemn all lethal whaling operations carried out under the guise of 'scientific' research. Japan carries out this research legally under the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), the parent treaty of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

The UK believes the IWC is the internationally recognised body for the management and conservation of whale stocks and any amendment to the ICRW would need to be ratified by all parties. The UK sees no advantage in pressing for the termination or renegotiation of the 1948 International Whaling Convention, as this is the legal instrument by which a general moratorium on commercial whaling has been upheld since 1986. In addition, Japan is unlikely to sign up to a new convention that restricts her current 'scientific' whaling.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 10 December 2007*

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Electricity

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department has implemented to improve the availability of electricity to local nationals in Southern Afghanistan; and how much money was spent on such projects in each year since 2005. [170816]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Over 2006-08, DFID committed £7 million to Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Helmand for reconstruction and development projects.

In 2006-07, as a QIPs project, we allocated £15,000 to fix three electricity generators in Sangin District in Helmand Province. This provided immediate access to electricity for approximately 500 homes in the district.

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 153W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, if he will place in the Library copies of the last three studies by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit on the effect of humanitarian and development programmes in Afghanistan. [170410]

**Mr. Malik:** The last three studies by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit on the impact of humanitarian and development programmes are:

1. Cops or Robbers? The Struggle to Reform the Afghan National Police, by Andrew Wilder
2. A Matter of Interests: Gender and the Politics of Presence in Afghanistan's Wolesi Jirga, by Anna Wordsworth
3. Finding the Money: Informal Credit practices in Rural Afghanistan, by Floortje Klijn and Adam pain

Copies of these studies will be placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 153W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, if he will *(a)* place in the Library a copy of his Department's funded study by the Peace Dividend Trust and *(b)* state how many Peace Dividend Trust studies relating to Afghanistan his Department has funded. [170411]

**Mr. Malik:** A copy of the DFID-funded Peace Dividend Trust study 'Afghan Compact Procurement Monitoring' will be placed in the Library of the House.

We have not funded the Peace Dividend Trust to produce any further studies relating to Afghanistan.

### Afghanistan: Transport

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department has implemented to improve ground transport for local nationals in Southern Afghanistan; and how much was spent on such projects in each year since 2005. [170819]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Over 2006-08, DFID committed £7 million to Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Helmand for reconstruction and development projects.

Under QIPs, we have spent £2.8 million on improving ground transport in Helmand Province. This includes projects such as bridge repairs, support to Afghanistan traffic police, provision of road building machinery and a bus station.

In addition, in 2007 under the DFID-supported Helmand Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (HARDP), £696,310 has been spent on the provision of 59 km of road in Lashkar Gar District, Helmand Province.

### Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development from which budget the recently announced £7 million to aid relief efforts in Bangladesh following Cyclone Sidr will be taken; and whether this money is additional funding that has not previously been announced. [170294]

**Mr. Malik:** The £7 million for cyclone relief has not previously been announced. Of this total, £4.5 million has been allocated from underspends this financial year in the Bangladesh country programme—caused mainly by the complex political situation in Bangladesh—and £2.5 million from DFID's central humanitarian and emergency aid budget. The reallocated underspend reflects normal in-year adjustments against forecast spending; these funds have not been diverted from existing projects or programmes.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the relief effort in Bangladesh following Cyclone Sidr. [172183]

**Mr. Thomas:** The emergency response has been rapid, especially that of the Government of Bangladesh, who have taken a strong co-ordination lead. Relief efforts have reached nearly all affected areas, but there is room for better co-ordination in reaching the ultra-poor and most needy. The water availability crisis has passed, owing to the high attention given to this by the Government, supported by others including the military and some donors. However, a large number of people remain in makeshift camps that are still in urgent need of water, sanitation and hygiene support. The UK is looking to support meeting these short to medium-term needs by allocating £2.5 million, from our £7 million pledge for cyclone relief, to CARE, OXFAM GB, and Save the Children UK. This will focus on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion in the most affected areas.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other aid has been pledged by the UK to the Bangladesh relief effort; and what progress is being made on the delivery of this aid. [172184]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK has pledged £7 million for Cyclone Sidr relief in Bangladesh. The first tranche of £2.5 million went through the United Nations Development Programme and has been providing immediate assistance in the form of food, clean and safe water, medical treatment and housing repairs since the relief operations started. The second tranche of £2.5 million has been programmed through Save the Children UK, Oxfam GB and CARE to focus on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion needs. These NGOs are already operational in the cyclone affected areas. Out of the remaining £2 million, the UK Government have provided non-food items, such as blankets and jerry cans, to 70,000 families in the worst affected districts and 12 boats to help with the relief operation—of which four have been provided to Save the Children, four to the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee and four to the Government of Bangladesh for the emergency disaster response. The remaining funds are being programmed for the restoration of livelihoods and disaster management co-ordination.

### Bangladesh: Politics and Government

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Bangladesh. [170638]

**Mr. Malik:** As of 1 December 2007, the Government of Bangladesh have reported 3,275 dead, 39,773 injured and 871 missing. They also estimate that the cyclone has affected approximately 30 of Bangladesh's 64 districts, primarily in Barisal and Khulna Divisions, with more than 8.5 million people affected.

The UK Government has provided £7 million for Cyclone Sidr relief in Bangladesh. The first tranche of £2.5 million went through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide immediate assistance in the form of food, clean and safe water, medical treatment, and housing repairs. The second tranche of £2.5 million will be programmed through Save the Children UK, Oxfam GB, and CARE, to focus on short to medium-term needs such as water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. The remaining £2 million will be for improving access, provision of non-food items such as blankets, disaster management co-ordination and the restoration of livelihoods.

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171302]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Chapter 7 of the 'Ministerial Code' sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months; [171249]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171262]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID's expenditure on flights booked centrally for the 12-month period April 2006 to March 2007 was £6,876,805, including business class flights costing £5,726,318 and first class flights costing £41,922.

Staff rules preclude use of first class travel, except by Ministers, officials accompanying them, and the most senior members of the senior civil service. Rules relating to the use of air travel and fare entitlements are set out in the Staff Handbook.

DFID's expenditure on UK train tickets for the 12-month period April 2006 to March 2007 was £366,684.

Data distinguished between classes of travel are not routinely maintained and could not be produced without the incurring of disproportionate cost. Staff may travel first class when they are travelling overnight or expected to work during the journey.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171335]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the 'Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers' list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Environmental Transformation Fund: Sustainable Development

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how he plans to ensure that projects funded by the Environmental Transformation Fund—International Window meet sustainability standards. [172600]

**Mr. Thomas:** The £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund International Window (ETF-IW) will support development and poverty reduction through better environmental protection and help poor countries respond to climate change. We want to make the ETF-IW part of a wider multilateral effort and we are working with the World Bank, recipient countries, implementing agencies and key stakeholders on the design of a new multi-donor trust fund.

During this design process, criteria will be agreed to ensure that all the investments made from the fund are sustainable, support poverty reduction and maximise environmental transformation. All investments made from the multi-donor fund will also need to meet the Equator Principles as well as the safeguard standards of the World Bank and the respective implementing agencies.

### Ghana: Schools

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provides for the construction of new schools or existing schools in *(a)* Ghana and *(b)* Nigeria. [171124]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID provides support for the construction of new school buildings through two programmes which provide budget support to the Government of Ghana for the implementation of its education sector plan:

In 2007-08, £40 million is being provided through the general multi-donor budget support programme. Of this sum, over 30 per cent. will be channelled into education, along with funds from other sources, including the Government's own revenues;

An additional £10 million has been provided by DFID in sector budget support, earmarked for education.

A large proportion of these funds are used for construction of new school infrastructure in both new and existing schools. The Ministry of Education reports that 2,322 new classrooms have been built in 2007 (in primary and junior secondary schools). Toilet blocks, furniture and, in some poorer areas, housing for teachers are also provided. Smaller amounts of UK funding are also provided for school construction through EC micro-projects, through the World Bank, and through the Education For All fast track initiative.

For the last six years, DFID has been supporting the Government of Nigeria, at both state and federal level, to build the capacity to use its own resources more effectively in the provision of basic education including school construction. Support is focused on three major initiatives all of which seek to improve school facilities:

DFID's capacity building for universal basic education project (CUBE) supports capacity building in Kano, Kaduna and Kwara states, including in the implementation of the World Bank's state education sector project (SESP). The wider SESP will support the renovation and construction of classrooms in 98 schools in the three states;

The £26 million girls education project (GEP) is funded by DFID and implemented by UNICEF in six Nigerian states (all six of which have large numbers of girls out of school). GEP provides support for educational materials, some minor renovation work and water points and toilets for 720 schools in the six states.

From 2008, DFID's new £106 million education sector support programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN) will provide technical assistance to up to six Nigerian states to improve the planning, procurement and construction of schools, including the provision of small grants to communities to help them manage and improve local facilities.

### Howard Horsley

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department followed all the provisions of its *(a)* approved departmental performance appraisal process and *(b)* departmental disciplinary procedure, including contingent provisions, in relation to the dismissal of Howard Horsley. [170565]

**Mr. Malik:** Mr. Howard Horsley's dismissal in January 2000 was entirely consistent with the processes and terms and conditions of his employment under his fixed term Technical Co-operation Officer contract.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many illegal immigrants were discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170502]

**Mr. Thomas:** No illegal immigrants have been discovered working in DFID or its agencies in the last year. Employment in the civil service is done in accordance with the civil service nationality rules, which are available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/nationality

### Postal Services

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many items of post sent by his Department were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997; [171290]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171420]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Schools: Construction

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of school buildings approved by his Department were built to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method *(a)* very good and *(b)* excellent standard in each of the last five years; and what the construction cost of those buildings was. [172293]

**Mr. Thomas:** No buildings have been constructed or approved by DFID in the UK in the last five years. The last construction project prior to this period was a new annexe to our East Kilbride office, which achieved an excellent rating against the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method.

### South East Asia: Rain Forests

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has held on measures to end the destruction of tropical forest caused by the expansion of biofuel plantations in South East Asia. [171119]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

My Department has had discussions on this issue, at both ministerial and official level, with the Indonesian and Malaysian Governments, and with other UK Government Departments and industry stakeholders.

The Government are pursuing measures at home, in the EU and internationally to help ensure biofuels are produced sustainably, without the destruction of tropical forests.

### Sudan: Overseas Aid

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much development assistance he has been provided to *(a)* the people of *(b)* NGOs working in and *(c)* the Government of Sudan in the last 12 months. [171958]

**Mr. Thomas:** In 2006-07, the last year for which complete figures are available, DFID provided £110 million in humanitarian and development assistance to Sudan. Of this, £27 million went directly to NGOs operating in Sudan. The remainder was channelled through the United Nations and other development agencies such as the World Bank. The majority of this funding, however, was directed to NGOs as project implementing partners. No DFID assistance was given directly to the Government of Sudan.

### Sudan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Darfur, Sudan. [169111]

**Mr. Thomas:** The humanitarian situation in Darfur remains critical. Malnutrition rates have risen sharply since the heavy rains in the autumn, particularly in the camps. Ongoing violence has led to a further 260,000 people being displaced this year alone, adding to the more than 2 million people already living in camps across the region. The camps are overstretched and becoming increasingly volatile. The increase in needs has been compounded by an escalation of attacks by armed groups against humanitarian agencies. This is having a serious impact on the ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver vital aid to those in need.

The UK is the second largest bilateral donor in Sudan, having given over £275 million in humanitarian aid since 2004, over £145 million of which has gone to Darfur. The UK is playing a leading role in improving the effectiveness of the humanitarian response such as the £40 million 2007 contribution to the Common Humanitarian Fund. The UK is also a strong supporter of international efforts to build on local-level peace-building and the AU-UN-led Darfur peace talks which commenced on 27 October in Libya. We urge all parties to commit to full participation in the next phase of talks.

### Young People

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171275]

**Mr. Malik:** The number of new staff aged between 16 and 18 employed directly by DFID in the last 10 years is as follows:

| | *1998* | *2000* | *2001* | *2004* | *2006* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age 16 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Age 17 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Age 18 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 10 |

DFID has no central record of the proportion of these staff undertaking some form of training, or the funding arrangements. This information could be gathered only at a disproportionate cost. DFID does not hold age-related information for agency staff.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [172398]

**Mr. Thomas:** The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate, as a result of economic mismanagement made worse by the effects of a severe drought during the last growing season. An estimated 4.1 million people will need international food aid by the end of the year. Malnutrition has reached concerning levels in a number of districts. The collapse of urban water and sanitation systems in Zimbabwe's main cities has increased numbers of life-threatening diarrhoea outbreaks. HIV/AIDS remains a major problem with 1.8 million affected.

DFID's aid programme is providing substantial direct assistance to protect the livelihoods of more than 1.5 million poor people in Zimbabwe, tackle HIV/AIDS and help meet humanitarian needs. This year we have made an additional contribution of £8 million to the World Food Programme to ensure that food aid reaches those who need it most and £1 million to UNICEF to prepare for and respond to emergency disease outbreaks.

## JUSTICE

### Administrative Law

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for judicial review were lodged on behalf of failed asylum seekers facing removal in each of the last five years; what percentage were granted in each year; what proportion these cases comprised of the number of cases before the Administrative Court in each year; and what the approximate cost was of each case. [172789]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is set out in the following tables.

*(a) Number of applications for judicial review lodged on behalf of failed asylum seekers facing removal in each of the last five years*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007 to 5 December | 2,849 |
| 2006 | 2,841 |
| 2005 | 2,265 |
| 2004 | 1,343 |
| 2003 | 2,062 |

*(b) What percentage were allowed in each year*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2007 to 5 December | 0.46 |
| 2006 | 0.88 |
| 2005 | 1.02 |
| 2004 | 1.27 |
| 2003 | 1.45 |

*Note:* The statistics provided are for those applications lodged and those applications allowed within a specified calendar year only. However it will not be the case that the applications allowed within a particular calendar year are the same applications that were lodged in that year. For example an application lodged in 2003 may well have been allowed in 2004.

*(c) What proportion did these cases comprise of the total number of cases before the administrative court*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2007 to 5 December | 0.12 |
| 2006 | 0.23 |
| 2005 | 0.21 |
| 2004 | 0.24 |
| 2003 | 0.42 |

For the data in parts (b) and (c) it has been assumed that the reference to "granted" is intended to mean "allowed". If a judicial review is allowed this indicates that the court is satisfied that the claimant has established his or her case. The remedy will be at the discretion of the court.

*(d) What was the approximate cost of each case*

To provide a complete breakdown of approximate costs for each case is not possible since this information is not recorded by the Administrative Court Office. To do so would be to incur disproportionate cost. The most recent estimates for approximate costs for judicial review applications include the cost of administrative staff time and judicial time for the permission hearing only. These estimates were produced in June 2006 and amount to £473.17 per case.

This estimate does not take into account middle and senior management time, other judicial time—particularly, but not limited to, the substantive hearing—or any overheads such as heating, lighting and other accommodation costs. Further, it does not take into account the legal funding costs which would be a matter for the Legal Services Commission.

## Carter Report

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his statement of 5 December 2007 on the Carter Report, whether the three titan prisons referred to will be run and staffed by the public sector. [172755]

**Mr. Hanson:** It is anticipated that the provision of up to three large titan prisons will be subject to a competitive procurement exercise. Each case will, however, will be considered on its own merits.

## Compensation: Industrial Diseases

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007 to the hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, North (Jim Sheridan), *Official Report*, column 798W, on compensation: industrial diseases, if he will reconsider his decision not to bring forward legislative proposals to provide for compensation to people who have contracted pleural plaque as a result of exposure to asbestos in the workplace. [172279]

**Bridget Prentice:** In my answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 798W, to the hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, North (Jim Sheridan), I indicated that the Government had decided that it would not be appropriate to legislate on this issue. That remains the Government's view.

The House of Lords reached a unanimous decision that pleural plaques do not constitute actionable or compensatable damage. The decision is based on fundamental principles of the law of negligence—first that compensation can only be payable where there is actual damage, and secondly that compensation is not payable simply for the risk or the worry that something might happen in the future.

Overturning these fundamental principles in the case of pleural plaques would create uncertainty in the law and could raise the possibility of claims being made much more widely for the risk of an illness occurring or for worry that something might happen. This would considerably increase the level of litigation and the possibility of weak or spurious claims, and could have damaging effects on business and the economy.

## Departmental Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171443]

**Maria Eagle:** This is the first year that a Ministry of Justice Christmas card has been produced by our print room. To date, 6,000 have been ordered at a cost of 34 pence each, totalling £2,040. These cards are not centrally funded, and business areas will cover the costs of the cards they have ordered from their stationery budgets.

It is not possible to get information for previous years' spend on Christmas cards as these will have been ordered by each business area separately, and will be recorded in the Department's accounts under "stationery".

Christmas parties are not funded by the Department. Staff will contribute to the cost of Christmas parties themselves, contributions will be made by senior staff, or awards will be made through reward and recognition in line with departmental guidelines.

The cost of trees and decorations for the central London HQ buildings is as follows:

*2007*

Trees—£460.40 plus VAT

Decorations—£325.90 plus VAT

*2003-06*

Records were not kept for these years, however due to a change in our financial record keeping this information is now documented.

*Archway Tower*

*2006*

Trees, decorations and labour—£809.00 plus VAT

*2005*

Trees, decorations and labour—£966.00 plus VAT

*2003-04*

Records not kept beyond this date.

*Conquest House*

No money has been spent on Christmas trees and decorations since 2002.

*Chancery Lane*

Nil response due to no records kept.

The information for agencies can only be gathered at a disproportionate cost, as each building would order its own trees and decorations.

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much has been paid in consultancy fees by his Department since its establishment; [172077]

(2) how much was paid in consultancy fees by the Lord Chancellor's Department from 1997 to 2000-01. [172100]

**Maria Eagle:** From April 1997 until March 2001, the amounts spent by the Lord Chancellor's Department's on external consultants was as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 0.7 |
| 1998-99 | 1.2 |
| 1999-2000 | 1.9 |
| 2000-01 | 2.6 |

Spend with external consultants since the Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, from April 2007 until September 2007, the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and those bodies that were formerly part of the Home Office and which are now part of the Ministry of Justice, spent £5.5 million with external consultants.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170229]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department, the Ministry of Justice, has placed copies of Ministry of Justice, Her Majesty's Courts Service, Office for Criminal Justice Reform, National Offender Management Service, Office of the Public Guardian and Tribunals Service corporate identity guidelines in the Libraries of the House. HM Prison Service does not have guidelines available.

My Department spent the following on producing guidelines. These are one-off costs (excluding VAT) that occur in the year indicated when each organisation was established. My Department does not produce new guidelines every year.

| | *Date* | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Justice HQ | May 2007 | 27,800 |
| Her Majesty's Courts Service | April 2005 | 13,130 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | October 2007 | 30,000 |

For my other agencies, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (established 2004), the National Offender Management Service (established 2005), the Tribunals Service (established 2006) and HM Prisons Service, figures are not available and to attempt to provide a figure would be disproportionate to the cost.

I am unable to identify how much staff time is spent on complying with the corporate guidelines without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Leeds Magistrates Court

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many outstanding Failure to Appear warrants there were in each year since 1997 *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* issued at Leeds magistrates court. [171696]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested has only been collected since April 2005, although a snapshot of performance was conducted in August 2004. The figures relate only to failure to appear warrants (FTAs) and demonstrate a 54 per cent. reduction in outstanding warrants since August 2004.

The data that are available are summarised as follows:

| *Warrants issued* | *England and Wales*[1] | *West Yorkshire*[1] | *Warrants outstanding* | *England and Wales*[2] | *West Yorkshire*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pre 2005 | [3]— | [3]— | As at August 2004 | 65,321 | 1,640 |
| During 2005-06 | 163,993 | 10,643 | As at April 2005 | 50,457 | 1,423 |
| | | | As at March 2006 | 37,541 | 992 |
| During 2006-07 | 146,936 | 9,531 | As at March 2007 | 30,907 | 802 |
| April to June 2007 | 35,678 | 2,219 | As at June 2007 | 29,790 | 729 |

[1] Figures are totals issued in the period specified.

[2] Figures are a snapshot of the rolling total of all FTA warrants outstanding in the specified month, regardless of when they were issued. They do not simply relate to those warrants outstanding that were issued in that same year.

[3] Data not collected.

## Offenders: Learning Disability

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what national standards exist for the level of care and support for offenders with learning difficulties while *(a)* in custody and *(b)* after release. [172304]

**Maria Eagle:** People with learning disabilities have the same rights as other citizens. Under the Disability Discrimination Act (1995, and as revised in 2005), all public bodies must not discriminate against disabled people or provide a poorer quality of service because of their disability. The Act extends to people with learning disabilities.

To help ensure they receive the extra support to which they are entitled under the Disability Discrimination Act, the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP), part of the Department of Health, has produced the document 'Positive Practice: Positive Outcomes: A handbook for Professionals in the Criminal Justice System working with Offenders with Learning Disabilities' (CSIP, 2007).

This sets out the support that must be provided by the police, the courts, in prisons and on probation.

A copy is available in the Library by and it is also available on the CSIP website at,

http://www.kc.csip.org.uk/viewresource.php?action=viewdocument&doc=98519&grp=1

## Offenders: Saudi Arabia

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of Saudi Arabian nationals with criminal convictions *(a)* conducting business and *(b)* living in the United Kingdom. [171881]

**Mr. Hanson:** The requested information is not available. The recording by the police on the police national computer of the nationality of offenders in England and Wales is optional as there is no legislative obligation on individuals to provide this information. For this reason reliable statistics on the nationality of offenders cannot be compiled. In addition, the police national computer does not hold information on whether offenders are conducting business or currently living in the UK.

## Penalty Notices: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 10 to 13, *(b)* 14 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 17-year-olds were (i) cautioned, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) in receipt of a penalty notice for disorder for purchasing alcohol under age in (A) the Uxbridge constituency, (B) Greater London, broken down by London borough and (C) England, in the last three years for which figures are available. [171484]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested on prosecutions, cautions and penalty notices in England in the years 2004 to 2006 is provided in the table. There were no court proceedings, cautions or PNDs reported to the Ministry of Justice for the offences requested in Greater London.

Data broken down by constituency area and London borough are not held by the Ministry of Justice.

*Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts, offenders cautioned and the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for purchasing alcohol illegally by age group. England 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]*

| | *Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts* | | | *Offenders cautioned* | | | *PNDs issued[4]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *10-13* | *14-15* | *16-17* | *10-13* | *14-15* | *16-17* | *16-17* |
| 2004 | — | 1 | 9 | — | 7 | 20 | [5]— |
| 2005 | — | — | 12 | — | 7 | 15 | 16 |
| 2006 | — | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 58 |

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The offence of illegal purchasing of alcohol by an underage person was added to the penalty notice for disorder scheme on the 4 April 2005.

[5] Not applicable.

## Peterborough Rape Crisis

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the work of the Peterborough Rape Crisis organisation of the withdrawal of Victims Fund grant monies from 1 January 2008; and if he will make a statement; [171948]

(2) how much of the £3 million funding for specialist services for sexual crimes will be allocated to the Peterborough Rape Crisis organisation; and if he will make a statement. [171949]

**Maria Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply on 6 December 2007, *Official Report,* column 1460W.

## Police National Computer

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on how many occasions cases involving recordable sexual offences have not been placed on the Police National Computer in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* England and Wales; [171694]

(2) how many case conclusions involving recordable offences have so far been identified as not having been placed on the Police National Computer in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* England and Wales; [171703]

(3) how many Leeds magistrates court employees *(a)* have been and *(b)* are the subject of disciplinary proceedings related to the (i) recording of outcomes of cases, (ii) updating of the Police National Computer and (iii) withdrawal of warrants; when such disciplinary proceedings began; and what the outcomes were of those proceedings which have been completed; [171704]

(4) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 44-46WS, on Leeds magistrates court, in what ways the Government's 2006 guidance was breached in those cases where a warrant was withdrawn in error; [171706]

(5) how many defendants due to come before Leeds magistrates court have been identified as having had warrants wrongly withdrawn. [171728]

**Mr. Straw:** I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 44-46WS, on Leeds magistrates courts. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Courts Administration has been asked to work with the chief inspectors for the constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service, to conduct a thorough inspection and prepare a report to Ministers on the resulting and warrant processes at Leeds magistrates court.

An experienced judge, district judge (magistrates court) Tony Browne, has also been appointed to conduct an investigation of the judicial responsibilities of legal advisers at Leeds magistrates court. We have also started investigating the national processes and practices for withdrawing warrants across the CIS agencies. HMCS have also been asked to look again at the information they gathered in their pro-active national review of the effectiveness of resulting processes in magistrates courts (in January 2007), and report on any outstanding issues.

It is these inspections and investigations which should provide the reliable data of the kind sought by the hon. Member.

It would be wrong to pre-empt the outcome of those investigations. I will make a further statement to the House on the findings and facts relating to all these matters, the action that has been taken and the action that will be taken when the investigations have concluded. The inspectorate report will be published to Parliament.

### Prisoners: Video Games

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 486-87W, on prisoners: video games, what criteria and guidance the Government issue to prohibit prisoners from accessing computer games which may have extreme violent, racist or sexually inappropriate themes; which games have been banned from prisons under these criteria; and if he will make a statement. [172055]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prison service order 1250 Prisoners Property provides guidance to governors about all items of in possession property, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. Governors prohibit any item they consider to be a potential risk to security, health and safety, or the good order or discipline of the establishment such as computer games that are of an extreme violent, racist or sexual nature. There are no central data available about which games have been prohibited by governors.

### Prisons: Learning Disability

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions have taken place between those responsible for the Dore programme and the Prison Service. [171974]

**Mr. Hanson:** There have been no discussions that have taken place between the Prison Service and those responsible for the Dore programme as there are no formal links with the provider. The Dore programme no longer runs at HMP Stafford or any other prison. The programme does however continue to be run independently within the community and prisoners are referred to the programme on release.

### Prisons: Manpower

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of prison officers younger than 21 years old working in prisons where the youngest prisoners are aged 21 years. [170864]

**Maria Eagle:** No assessment has been made of prison officers working in prisons where the youngest prisoners are aged 21 or over, nor has this been raised formally as an issue. Out of a total of 25,303 prison officers, only 83 (0.3 per cent.) are below the age of 21.

The recruitment process for prison officers is by way of a job simulation assessment centre to assess that candidates are competent to undertake the role. If they are successful in the assessment process, they are deemed capable to work in any prison establishment.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006, which came in to force on 1 October 2006, outlaw the use of minimum recruitment ages unless they can be objectively justified.

While on duty, prison officers hold the powers of a constable and currently share a common minimum recruitment age of 18 with the police services.

The minimum age requirement for prison officers was first reduced from 21 to 20 years in 1987.

### Prisons: Mental Health

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reception screening is in place for mental health needs in prisons. [172360]

**Maria Eagle:** All prisoners, both new prisoners and those transferred in from one prison to another, benefit from a new health screening process, introduced across the prison estate in 2004, that is designed to detect physical and mental health problems.

Work by Professor Grubin and colleagues led to the roll-out of a new two-part health screening tool, the first part intended to gather information pertinent to the addressing of immediate health concerns, and the second part intended to act as a "well woman/man" consultation, analogous to that in use in primary care settings in the wider community.

Prisoners who are identified as needing further help can be referred to a mental health in-reach team, who will arrange further assessment and follow up referral.

### Reoffenders

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 295W, on reoffenders, how much was spent on approved premises in each of the last five years. [171868]

**Maria Eagle:** The following data set out what has been spent in total on the approved premises estate in each of the last five years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 52,219,391 |
| 2003-04 | 61,998,242 |
| 2004-05 | 63,567,929 |
| 2005-06 | 73,358,001 |
| 2006-07 | 84,599,882 |
| Total | 335,743,445 |

## Sick Leave: Dismissal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163697]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is not held centrally for the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, this information is now being recorded centrally by the Ministry of Justice and figures will be available shortly.

Sickness absence can become a disciplinary issue when someone is off sick without authority (either absent from work for more than seven days without providing a doctor's certificate or failing to ring their line manager on the day of their absence) and does not improve following a meeting and an agreed action plan.

Appropriate warning levels can be issued at any stage. Warnings are not issued because someone is unwell; they are issued for non-attendance at work, and are part of the process for managing absence. If someone were found to have misled their employers about the absence they would be dealt with under the conduct policy.

The health referral can be used at any stage, and is not a disciplinary sanction. For example, if someone had a pattern of frequent short-term absence, a referral could be done to see if there were any underlying medical problems. Similarly if someone disclosed diagnosis of a serious medical condition, a referral could be done immediately to identify any reasonable adjustments that could be made.

Within Her Majesty's Prison Service, Prison Service Order 8403 Management of Attendance Procedures contains the policy on dealing with sickness absence. A total of 2,066 members of HM Prison Service staff have been dismissed for the reason of medical inefficiency or medically retired over the last five years.

This breaks down as:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| *2002-03* | |
| Dismissals | 200 |
| Medical retirements | 240 |
| Total | 440 |
| *2003-04* | |
| Dismissals | 297 |
| Medical retirements | 231 |
| Total | 528 |
| *2004-05* | |
| Dismissals | 212 |
| Medical retirements | 172 |
| Total | 384 |
| *2005-06* | |
| Dismissals | 219 |
| Medical retirements | 141 |
| Total | 360 |
| *2006-07* | |
| Dismissals | 221 |
| Medical retirements | 133 |
| Total | 354 |

Within the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), staff with a poor sickness absence record are managed under attendance management policies operated within Home Office headquarters.

Information on the number of attendance management warnings and dismissals is only available from 2005, and breaks down as follows:

| | *OCJR* | *NOMS* |
|---|---|---|
| *2005* | | |
| Disciplined | 0 | 3 |
| Dismissed | 0 | 0 |
| *2006* | | |
| Disciplined | 1 | 7 |
| Dismissed | 0 | 0 |
| *2007* | | |
| Disciplined | 0 | 1 |
| Dismissed | 0 | 2 |

The figures are inclusive of staff disciplined and dismissed under both the long and short-term sick policies used within the Home Office.

## Stafford Prison: Learning Disability

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to extend the programme of the Dore achievement centres and the Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Attention Deficit Disorder treatment programme within Stafford Prison to other prisons. [171975]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Dore programme is no longer run at HMP Stafford and there are no plans to extend the programme to any other prison. The programme does however continue to be run independently within the community and prisoners are referred to it on release.

### Television: Licensing

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are serving prison sentences for non-payment of the BBC licence fee. [170269]

**Maria Eagle:** Non-payment for a television licence is not an imprisonable offence. Offenders are dealt with by way of a fine. Non-payment of a fine may result in a short custodial sentence. At 31 October 2007 there were no fine defaulters in prison establishments in England and Wales whose main offence was non-payment for a TV licence.

This information has been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Young Offender Institutions

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what costs were incurred due to vandalism in young offender institutions in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [172725]

**Mr. Hanson:** The costs of vandalism in the 34 young offender institutions is held at each establishment and forms part of the overall maintenance costs. This information is not held centrally and could be gathered only at disproportionate cost within the given time scale.

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department takes to ensure the safety of staff within young offender institutions when dealing with disruptive behaviour by inmates. [172726]

**Mr. Hanson:** Staff are trained in a number of techniques to effectively and safely manage violent or refractory young prisoners. These techniques include the use of de-escalation and interpersonal/communication skills, personal safety techniques and as a last resort control and restraint. The procedures for use of control and restraint are laid out in Prison Service Order 1600.

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there is a uniform application of "lights out" policies across all young offender institutions. [172727]

**Mr. Hanson:** There is no uniform "lights out" policy for young offender institutions. This is a local operational matter for the governor to decide.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Children: Maintenance

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164298]

**Mrs. McGuire:** All public procurement procedures must comply with the EU directives. The key principles of the treaty, from a public procurement point of view, are the free movement of goods and services, and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. This legislation is designed to ensure that all public procurement across the European Union is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory.

This means that the DWP cannot specify that it will only buy goods (e.g. wine) from a particular country or locality, as that would discriminate against producers from other EU member states.

However, the Government are committed to increase opportunities for small and local suppliers to tender for contracts, thus increasing competition and securing better value for money.

### Christmas

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what health and safety advice is issued to his Department's agencies on Christmas decorations. [171846]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions provides sensible and simple guidance for staff about the potential hazards associated with the use of Christmas decorations in buildings.

This provides practical advice on how to reduce the risk of injury from slips, trips and falls by avoiding trailing wires and not standing on furniture when hanging decorations, and advice that all Christmas lights should be properly tested and checked before use.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that his Department provides references for the translators no longer being used by the Department. [169779]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Guidance to suppliers on the provision of references is given within the terms and conditions detailed on the "Supplying DWP" section of the Department's internet site. The link to this section is:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplyingdwp/doing_business with_dwp/ppn7-03.pdf

### Departmental Food

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166656]

**Mrs. McGuire:** It is not possible to obtain figures solely for individual headquarter sites.

The following table provides information on the percentage of each product imported for the period 1 July 2006-30 June 2007.

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Beef | 30 |
| Lamb | 48 |
| Pork | 35 |
| Dairy products | 20 |

### Departmental Industrial Disputes

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contingency plans he has to help those who could be affected by the proposed strikes within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [170773]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Our contingency plans, which are flexible and proven, include prioritising our resources to ensure that our top priority—to make payments to our customers—is maintained throughout any strike action by staff. We will also maintain access to our services by telephone and wherever possible face to face.

### Departmental Manpower

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants in his Department *(a)* transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* left the civil service in each of the last five years. [162729]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 203-07W.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164738]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

### Departmental Pay

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in 2006-07; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [166829]

**Mrs. McGuire:** There were 242 bonuses awarded to senior civil servants working at the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies in 2006-07.

The total cost of those bonuses was £1,787,847.

| *Bonus type* | *Number* | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 DWP senior civil service pay round bonuses | 200 | 1,675,366 |
| Other bonus payments[1] | 42 | 112,481 |
| Total | 242 | 1,787,847 |

[1] Includes bonuses paid outside the DWP senior civil service pay round to:
Permanent secretaries (performance bonuses);
Staff transferring in from other Government Departments (performance bonuses awarded by the other Department);
Newly promoted staff as part of their junior pay award, and
Senior civil servants as special bonuses (through the DWP special bonus scheme for staff).

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in his Department and its predecessors were paid over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167204]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is in the following table.

*Employees with full-time equivalent gross salary (excluding bonuses) greater than £100,000*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| September 2006 | 40 |
| April 2005 | 30 |
| April 2004 | 20 |
| April 2003 | 20 |
| April 2002 | 20 |
| April 2001 | — |
| April 2000 | — |
| April 1999 | — |
| April 1998 | — |
| April 1997 | — |

Numbers less than five are represented by '—'.
*Notes:*
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. DSS and Employment Service prior to 2002.
*Source:*
Mandate provided by ONS.

### Departmental Redundancies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of redundancies in the Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [166287]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Over the three-year period only one member of staff was made compulsorily redundant in the Department. However, in addition, as part of its efficiency programme, the Department has run a number of staff early release schemes on a voluntary basis.

The Department reports financial information based on financial years over the periods April to March. Information is therefore not available on the cost of early release in any of the 12-month periods ending 30 June. Information on the cost of on early release in the 12 months ending 31 March 2004, 31 March 2005 and 31 March 2006 is in the following table.

| *Financial Year* | *Total cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 16.1 |
| 2004-05 | 29.6 |
| 2005-06 | 140.0 |

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171331]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation, are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Employment

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase the involvement of private and voluntary sector organisations in the design and delivery stages of the city strategy. [170113]

**Caroline Flint:** We are currently in discussion with providers from the private and voluntary sectors and plan to hold an event in January at which we will update them on the city strategy and its progress to date.

At this event, they will also have an opportunity to outline how they plan to work with the pathfinder consortia, influence policy decisions, and play a part in the commissioning strategy. This will enable all parties to work together to improve the way in which support for individual jobless people is co-ordinated and delivered on the ground.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people seeking to *(a)* return to work and *(b)* obtain their first job his Department has assisted to compile a curriculum vitae in each of the last three years. [171519]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is not available.

Jobcentre Plus personal advisers provide information, advice and guidance to help people identify, apply for and secure employment. Tailoring this to individual need, advisers offer support on a range of jobsearch skills, including, where required, help to compile a curriculum vitae (CV). However, we do not maintain data about the number of people personal advisers help personally to compile a CV, or who they may direct to other sources of help, such as programme provision, self-help material such as the Jobcentre Plus Job Kit or local help organisations.

### Employment: Marfan Syndrome

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department makes available to people with Marfan syndrome in job applications. [169342]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 10 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the support made available to people with Marfan syndrome in job applications. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Customers with Marfan Syndrome can access the wide range of programmes provided by Jobcentre Plus. In particular, they may be interested in Pathways to Work or Disability Employment Adviser support.

Pathways to Work currently operates in 18 Jobcentre Plus Districts and will be available everywhere by April 2008. This initiative encourages customers to consider starting or returning to work with the help of the Incapacity Benefit Personal Adviser. Support includes a series of work focused interviews and access to the "Choices" package. The package includes financial incentives, in work support and if appropriate, participation in a joint NHS / Jobcentre Plus Condition Management programme, so they can understand and manage their condition with a view to returning to work. The adviser identifies when, and if other specialist advice or provision is needed.

Anyone who has been diagnosed with Marfan syndrome and who needs to look for specific types of work can seek additional specialist help from the Disability Employment Adviser.

The Disability Employment Adviser can provide information about the range of mainstream and specialist programmes and services that can support disabled people into work. These include New Deal for Disabled People, Work Preparation, Access to Work, WORKSTEP and Residential Training Colleges. The Disability Employment Adviser and customer will draw up an action plan to help the customer move into employment.

If a customer is concerned about losing their job or one they are about to start, because of a disability, the Disability Employment Adviser can provide advice about Access to Work. Access to Work can assist people with a disability or health condition who need support to overcome work-related obstacles resulting from disability, allowing them to stay in or start their job.

I hope this is helpful.

### Employment: New Deal Schemes

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will set out a timetable for the implementation of proposals made in "In work, better off: next steps to full employment" document published in July 2007. [169914]

**Caroline Flint:** The consultation period for the Green Paper 'In work, better off' closed at the end of October. We are currently studying the submissions we received and will respond shortly.

### Incapacity Benefit: Inverness

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Highland ward of Merkinch received from the deprived areas fund in 2006-07; and how much it is estimated to receive in 2007-08. [169911]

**Caroline Flint:** In 2006-07, the Deprived Areas Fund allocated to the Jobcentre Plus Highlands, Islands and Clyde Coast, and Grampian district included £10,495 for the Merkinch ward. The amount for 2007-08 is £32,340.

### Incapacity Benefits: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to revise his guidance to lay decision-makers assessing claims for disability living allowance from sufferers of myalgic encephalopathy, chronic fatigue syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [170263]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Updated medical guidance on myalgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome for disability living allowance decision-makers was published in July 2007. The guidance is available on the Department's website. There are no current plans for further revision, but officials will continue to monitor new research and evidence in this area.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received from *(a)* myalgic encephalopathy, chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) charities, *(b)* medical professionals and *(c)* individuals with ME/CFS on his Department's advice on claimants suffering from this illness. [170270]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The guidance published in July 2007 was written in consultation with medical experts from relevant medical specialities, including an expert nominated by groups representing people with myalgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). Consultation with groups representing people with CFS included three face-to-face meetings. Their comments and views were taken into account.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what scientific studies underlie his Department's guidance on benefit applicants with myalgic encephalopathy, chronic fatigue syndrome. [170271]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department did not use any specific scientific studies to inform the revision of its guidance to disability living allowance decision-makers, but used instead a range of recognised experts in the field to help with drawing up the guidance. This process included engagement with bodies representing people with myalgic encephalopathy and chronic fatigue syndrome.

### Job Creation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of new jobs for *(a)* British citizens and *(b)* non-British citizens that the British jobs for British workers policy will produce; [164769]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to promote British jobs for British workers; and what estimate he has made of the number of such jobs that will be created over the next *(a)* year, *(b)* three years and *(c)* decade. [164808]

**Caroline Flint:** "British jobs for British workers' refers to the Government's commitment to help disadvantaged people in this country who have been on benefits, often for prolonged periods of time, to move into work.

Our Welfare Reform Green Paper "In work, better off: next steps to full employment" sets out our proposals for moving further towards our aspiration of 80 per cent. employment. We will concentrate on helping the most disadvantaged individuals and families. Tackling inactivity, particularly among those on benefits, remains our top priority.

We have joined major employers to create Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs), which will help over 250,000 disadvantaged people into work over the next three years.

These measures are designed to build on the record of success since 1997 which has seen an increase in employment of 2.8 million and a reduction of over 1 million people on key out-of-work benefits.

### Jobcentre Plus: Autism Spectrum Disorder

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department has provided to Jobcentre Plus employees on working with local authorities to meet the needs of adults with an autism spectrum disorder. [170551]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 30 November 2007]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 10 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what guidance has been provided to Jobcentre Plus employees on working with local authorities to meet the needs of adults with autism spectrum disorder. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There is no specific guidance provided to Jobcentre Plus employees on working with local authorities to meet the needs of those with autism spectrum disorder.

However, Jobcentre Plus has a Service Level Agreement with local authorities setting out the joint activities Jobcentre Plus and local authorities undertake for their shared customers. This ensures both organisations continue to work together effectively and deliver a quality service to customers.

Furthermore, any customers who need extra support because of their disability, including those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, can get help from a Jobcentre Plus Disability Employment Adviser. The Disability Employment Adviser will tell them about specialised programmes available for disabled people and any suitable job vacancies. There are no Jobcentre Plus programmes specifically targeted at people with autism spectrum. All of these programmes work with customers across the full range of disabilities and health conditions, including those with autism spectrum disorder.

Disability Employment Adviser training includes periods of consolidation after training where they research into local organisations and provision for the benefit of customers. This develops effective working relationships with partners and would include local employers, the local authority, voluntary organisations and social services.

I hope this is helpful.

## Jobseeker's Allowance

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants who are contacted *(a)* more frequently than every two weeks, *(b)* every two weeks and *(c)* less than every two weeks about their claim. [166578]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 10 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State for Employment and Welfare Reform has asked me to reply to your question about the estimated number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who are contacted about their claim more frequently than every two weeks; every two weeks; and less than every two weeks. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The vast majority of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance are required to attend the Jobcentre at least every two weeks to show they are actively seeking and available for work, and therefore remain entitled to payment. During certain key stages of the claim people are required to attend more frequently for short periods.

In 2006/07 there were 2.3 million claims for Jobseekers Allowance. Of these, about 60% (1.3 million) left before 13 weeks, and will have attended a Jobcentre Plus office on a fortnightly basis during that time. Those claiming beyond 13 weeks (about 965,000) will have had a combination of weekly/fortnightly contacts, depending upon the duration of their claim.

Additionally, in 2006/07 there was a total of 29,350 interviews with 7,337 customers suspected of working while claiming benefit, but where there was not enough evidence to warrant a full fraud investigation. These customers were required to attend the Jobcentre Plus office for a series of interviews arranged to take place on days other than their normal day of attendance in order to disrupt any potential work pattern.

The only exception to the requirement to attend the Jobcentre fortnightly or weekly is people who are able to maintain their claim by post, for example because of the distance they live from their nearest Jobcentre Plus office. While these people are not required to actually attend the Jobcentre as frequently as other customers, they are required, by post, to show they are actively seeking and available for work on a similar fortnightly or weekly basis, depending upon the length of their claim. We do not have information on the number of postal claimants, but the (postal) eligibility rules mean they only ever represent a small percentage of the overall number claiming Jobseekers Allowance.

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether jobseeker's allowance claimants are permitted to refuse an offer of employment if they would not be made financially better off by accepting the offer; [170279]

(2) what factors are included in determinations of lone parent claimants being better off by Jobcentre Plus. [170280]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: Jobseeker's allowance regulations do not normally allow claimants to refuse an offer of employment if they would not be made financially better off by accepting the offer. However, there are easements which allow good cause for refusing a job which are considered by an independent decision maker. They will look at all the available evidence, and it is possible that they will consider the claimant has good cause for refusing an offer of employment, if they would not be made financially better off by accepting the offer.

The impact of these measures was considered in our Green Paper, "In Work, Better Off: Next Steps to Full Employment", and in the subsequent consultation on its proposals. We will be responding to these in our White Paper Response.

## Lone Parents: Work-Focused Interviews

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* subsequent work-focused interviews for lone parents were booked between March 2006 and September 2007; and how many claimants were sanctioned for non-attendance in each category. [170274]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: The available information is in the following table.

*Work focused interviews for lone parents for the period March 2006 to August 2007*

| *Work Focused Interviews (WFI)* | *Number of WFIs booked* | *Number of lone parents sanctioned for failing to attend WFI* |
|---|---|---|
| First | 343,900 | 4,840 |
| Second | 335,900 | 23,640 |
| Subsequent | 566,400 | 29,640 |

*Sources:*
1. National Benefits Database.
2. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

## Minimum Wage

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether consideration has been given to ending the age-related graduated structure of minimum wage rates. [172581]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government's regulations implementing the European Employment Directive (Council Directive 2007/78/EC) came into force on 1 October 2006 (Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006) and provided an exemption from age discrimination for employers using the youth (16-17 year-old) or development rates (18-21 year-old) of the minimum wage. The Government keep the position under review.

## New Deal Schemes

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to exempt certain groups of lone parents from new requirements of conditionality outlined in "In work, better off: next steps to full employment". [169918]

**Caroline Flint:** The proposed changes from October 2008 would only affect those lone parents who are in receipt of income support solely on the basis that they are the parent of a child aged 12 or over. Further proposals are that this age may be brought down to a youngest child who will be seven years old by October 2010.

The Green Paper proposed that

"Other lone parents would be able to claim the appropriate benefit for their circumstances. For example, lone parents receiving carer's allowance for disabled children (or for caring for others) will be able to continue to claim income support should they wish."

### Pensions: Finance

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the net annual cost for each year from 2008 to 2025 of *(a)* paying the basic state pension at its current level, increased annually in line with average earnings to all pensioners, *(b)* raising the basic state pension to the current level of the Pensions Credit Guarantee, increased annually in line with average earnings and paying it to all pensioners and *(c)* raising the basic state pension to 60 per cent. of median population income, increased annually in line with average earnings and paying it to all pensioners. [164652]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is in the following table.

*Estimated net additional costs for all UK pensioners*

*£ billion (2007-08 prices)*

| *Financial year* | *(a) Basic state pension increased annually in line with average earnings* | *(b) Basic state pension increased to pension credit standard minimum guarantee increased annually in line with average earnings* | *(c) Basic state pension increased to 60 per cent. of median population income increased annually in line with average earnings* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 6 | 23 | 22 |
| 2009 | 7 | 24 | 23 |
| 2010 | 8 | 25 | 24 |
| 2011 | 8 | 26 | 25 |
| 2012 | 8 | 26 | 25 |
| 2013 | 8 | 26 | 26 |
| 2014 | 8 | 27 | 26 |
| 2015 | 8 | 27 | 26 |
| 2016 | 7 | 27 | 26 |
| 2017 | 7 | 28 | 27 |
| 2018 | 7 | 28 | 27 |
| 2019 | 7 | 28 | 27 |
| 2020 | 7 | 29 | 28 |
| 2021 | 7 | 29 | 28 |
| 2022 | 7 | 30 | 29 |
| 2023 | 7 | 31 | 30 |
| 2024 | 7 | 32 | 30 |
| 2025 | 7 | 32 | 30 |

*Notes:*

1. Estimates are presented in net terms meaning that estimated savings from reduced income related benefit payments (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit) have been deducted. The proportions of additional expenditure saved through reduced income related benefit payments in 2008-09 have been estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model. This proportion is assumed to remain constant in future years.
2. Column 2 is based on paying UK pensioners the current full value of the basic state pension of £87.30 per week uprated by the relevant Average Earnings Index of 3.5 per cent. and rounded to the nearest five pence, which gives a figure of £90.35 in 2008-09.
3. Column 3 is based on the value of the current level of the pension credit standard minimum guarantee of £119.05 per week for a single person, uprated by the relevant Average Earnings Index of 3.5 per cent. and rounded to the nearest five pence, which gives a figure of £123.20 in 2008-09.
4. Column 4: Sixty per cent. of median population income for a single person with no children after deducting housing costs was £108 per week in 2005-06 (Households Below Average Income: An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95—2005/06 (Revised), DWP). This figure has been uprated by average earnings to £121.60 per week in 2008-09.
5. In the financial years up to and including 2013-14 Treasury economic assumptions have been used to model earnings uprating. After this point a long term earnings growth assumption of 4.93 per cent. has been applied.
6. No changes have been made to the current or projected level of the savings credit threshold.
7. 'All pensioners' is defined as all individuals over state pension age living in the United Kingdom. The estimates do not include pensioners claiming a UK pension, but living overseas. Including this group would increase the estimated costs.
8. The estimates are consistent with mid-2004 GAD population projections. We are currently in the process of revising our expenditure projections in line with the mid-2006 ONS population projections.
9. Estimates are in 2007-08 prices and have been rounded to the nearest £ billion.

*Source:*
DWP modelling

### Performance Appraisal

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department's year ends for the purpose of assessing staff performance; and when staff receive performance bonuses. [172126]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The performance year for the Department for Work and Pensions runs from 1 April to 31 March for all grades including the senior civil service.

Performance bonuses are one element of the annual pay award, which is effective from 1 July. This year, owing to protracted pay negotiations with trade unions, performance bonuses were paid with the pay award in November.

Senior civil service bonuses are usually paid in July in DWP, but this year they were paid in November in line with Cabinet Office instruction.

### Remploy

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the future of the *(a)* Trefforest, *(b)* Brynaman and *(c)* Ystradgynlais Remploy factories. [171381]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The Secretary of State discussed those Remploy factories with a number of Welsh Assembly Government Ministers, including the First Minister, the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing and the Deputy Minister for Regeneration.

### Social Fund

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will list the organisations which provide advice on the making of decisions on applications to the social fund; [164487]

(2) what information his Department records on the decisions of the social fund; [164488]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* quality and *(b)* appropriateness of advice offered by staff to social fund applicants; [164653]

(4) if he will take steps to ensure that applicants requiring assistance who have had a social fund application rejected are directed to more appropriate sources of funding; [164654]

(5) what criteria his Department uses to ensure that community care grants are awarded to the applicants who are most in need of them. [164655]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 10 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions relating to the operation of the discretionary Social Fund scheme. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is solely responsible for administering the Social Fund, including making initial decisions on applications for loans and Community Care Grants and providing the first tier of review for applicants dissatisfied with their original decision. Decision makers must adhere to the Directions issued by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and take account of guidance he has given. They should also have regard to the state of the budget in the Social Fund unit they are attached to. Decision makers are fully trained in the principles of decision making and the rules relating to the Social Fund.

Social Fund Inspectors working at the Independent Review Service for the Social Fund (an independent statutory body) provide the second tier of the review for customers dissatisfied with the review decision made by the decision maker in Jobcentre Plus. Customers who are still dissatisfied may apply for Judicial Review. Inspector's decisions are returned to Jobcentre Plus and are used as a learning resource for decision makers. The Social Fund Commissioner, the head of the Independent Review Service, has provided assistance to Jobcentre Plus by making his staff available to assist us in training our decision makers. Inspector's decisions have always been a useful resource for Jobcentre Plus decision makers. We are now formalising that as part of an enhanced checking regime designed to improve the standard of decision making.

The particulars of each application are recorded on the national Social Fund Computer System. For Budgeting Loans this includes the reasons for the decision and repayment terms. For Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans, in addition to recording the details on the computer system, decision makers are required to complete a written decision which explains in details the reasons why an award has been made or refused.

Jobcentre Plus monitors customer service through the Mystery Shopper Programme, which is an independent measure of the accuracy and comprehensiveness of information given to customers. The scenarios used by the Mystery Shopper include some questions about elements of the Social Fund. Performance against these questions contributes to the wider Customer Service Target.

Social Fund decision makers are advised to alert customers, where appropriate, to charitable sources of funding such as the Family Fund. Decision makers refusing an award from one part of Social Fund will as a matter of routine consider whether an application to another part of the fund might be successful. When a decision is made to refuse a Community Care Grant the decision maker will automatically consider whether a crisis loan can be awarded. Similarly, if a Crisis Loan is refused the decision maker should consider whether the award of a Community Care Grant is appropriate. Where neither is appropriate consideration should be given to issuing a Budgeting Loan application form to the customer as legislation does not permit us to treat an application for a Community Care Grant or Crisis Loan as a Budgeting Loan.

The Community Care Grant scheme operates within the constraints of a cash limited budget and awards are made based on prioritisation of customer need which ensures that available funding goes to those with the highest priority needs. In each case the decision maker considers the nature, extent and urgency of need and whether the priority of the need can be met from the relevant budget allocation.

I hope that this is helpful.

### Social Security Benefits: Eastbourne

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance payments for people over the retirement age living in Eastbourne was in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07. [165398]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The available information is in the following tables.

*Attendance allowance and disability living allowance expenditure for people over retirement age in the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency—cash terms*

| | Status | Annual expenditure (£ million) |
|---|---|---|
| *Attendance allowance* | | |
| 1997-98 | Outturn | 5.4 |
| 2006-07 | Provisional Outturn | 9.7 |
| *Disability living allowance* | | |
| 1997-98 | Outturn | 2.0 |
| 2006-07 | Provisional Outturn | 3.9 |

*Attendance allowance and disability living allowance expenditure for people over retirement age in the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency—2007-08 prices*

| | Status | Annual expenditure (£ million) |
|---|---|---|
| *Attendance allowance* | | |
| 1997-98 | Outturn | 7.0 |
| 2006-07 | Provisional Outturn | 10.0 |
| | | |
| *Disability living allowance* | | |
| 1997-98 | Outturn | 2.6 |
| 2006-07 | Provisional Outturn | 4.0 |

*Notes:*
1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand pounds.
2. All figures are consistent with the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review, as well as expenditure information published on the internet at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
3. The 1997-98 caseloads used in the apportionment of expenditure are based on 5 per cent. samples, which have been calibrated to 100 per cent. data. 100 per cent. data have been used to apportion expenditure for 2006-07.
4. Parliamentary constituency data are not available prior to February 1997.

*Source:*
Expenditure has been taken from departmental accounting systems and combined with 100 per cent. statistical data to identify the proportion of expenditure paid to people over retirement age living in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency.

### Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many A8 nationals claimed *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance, *(c)* housing benefit, *(d)* council tax benefit and *(e)* pension credit in each quarter since 1 May 2004, broken down by nationality. [162347]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the format requested.

Some information is available in the "Accession Monitoring Report; May 2004-September 2007", a joint report by the Border and Immigration Agency, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs and Department for Communities and Local Government, copies of which have been placed in the Library.

The Accession Monitoring Report only gives the total of applicants for tax funded income related benefits (income based jobseeker's allowance , income support and state pension credit) broken down by A8 nation.

### Staff Survey

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions why his Department cancelled its autumn staff survey; what consultations his Department had with the trade union side before deciding to cancel; what costs were incurred in drafting the survey before it was cancelled; and when his Department next plans to survey its staff. [171836]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions postponed its November 2007 staff survey until January 2008. The decision to defer was made following a range of feedback suggesting that a review of the questionnaire content and overarching strategy was needed. A letter to the DTUS secretary, on 24 October 2007, outlined the rationale and gave advance viewing of a Department-wide announcement on 25 October 2007. The DWP will share the revised content of the survey questionnaire with the DTUS (which it does routinely each year). A total of £14,535 was incurred in external supplier costs in preparation for the postponed survey.

### Stevenage

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department is responsible for *(a)* the ministerial salary and *(b)* the provision of support to the ministerial office of the hon. Member for Stevenage. [170006]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The Government Equalities Office will meet the ministerial salary of my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) and will meet most of the costs of her Private Office. The Department for Work and Pensions, the Cabinet Office and the Government Offices for the Regions also provide some support services for the Private Office.

### Unemployment: Prisoners

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many ex-prisoners have entered Progress 2 work/link up in each year since its inception; and how many of these have found sustained employment. [162683]

**Caroline Flint:** The available information is in the following table.

*Ex-prisoner[2] starters on the Progress2work and Progress2work-linkUP programmes in Great Britain*

| | Starters | Jobs | Sustained jobs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 210 | 30 | 10 |
| 2003 | 2,840 | 520 | 120 |
| 2004 | 5,330 | 1,350 | 300 |
| 2005 | 5,580 | 1,360 | 350 |
| 2006 | 5,560 | 1,080 | 400 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded up to the nearest 10 for data protection reasons; totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The figures relate to customers who volunteered the information that they had served a custodial sentence; it will necessarily be an under-count as some customers will not wish to disclose this type of information.
3. In the case of earlier years the 'sustained jobs' figure is the number of customers who did not claim benefit again within 13 weeks of their job start. Later information, since September 2006, comes from information provided by contractors in the management information they give to the DWP.
4. Progress2work was rolled out early in 2002, initially in 27 pathfinders. Progress2work provision was available in around 60 Jobcentre Plus districts by June 2003 and was rolled out to the remaining districts by April 2004.

### Westmorland

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166559]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The only building that the DWP occupies in this constituency is Kentmere house, Kendal. DWP service delivery plans are regularly reviewed and there are currently no plans to move any further offices to the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months. [171250]

**Mr. Thomas:** The amount spent on first class and business flights for the period November 2006 to October 2007 was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Business Class Flights | 2,307,278 |
| *(b)* First Class Flights | 98,506 |

The figures include both UK and overseas flights.

### Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect his departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [165576]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: The Climate Change Bill, which was introduced to Parliament on 14 November, will require Government to assess the risks that climate change poses to the UK, and to report to Parliament. The first national risk assessment, which includes energy issues, will be carried out within three years of enactment of the Bill, with subsequent assessments being published at least every five years. In addition, the Bill will also require the Government to publish and regularly update an adaptation programme. This will set out the Government's objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change and their proposals and policies for meeting those objectives. As part of preparations for developing this programme, the Government will be publishing an adaptation policy framework in spring 2008 .

BERR has been actively engaged in those adaptation responsibilities included in its remit. The Department's responsibilities primarily affected by the impacts of climate change include those relating to energy, telecoms and regional economic performance. In relation to the energy sector, there are already a number of existing obligations relating to security of supply which help to ensure that adaptation to climate change occurs. The electricity companies have general obligations in relation to continuity of supply via the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations, which are enforced by BERR. Electricity and gas utilities also have a general legal duty under the terms of their licence to ensure adequate levels of security of supply. These are enforced by Ofgem, which has powers to require electricity and gas utilities to provide it with the information necessary for Ofgem to assess compliance with the duty.

As evidenced by the response during the flooding in the summer, Government are working and will continue to work closely with industry—including telecoms—to ensure that services are restored to customers as soon as possible following any weather-related or other events which may cause disruption to service.

In relation to the Department's regional responsibilities, the Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration published in July indicated that it was essential for every region to plan to ensure that it is resilient to a changing climate. The review confirmed that the Government propose to give the regional development agencies executive responsibility for developing single integrated regional strategies which set out the economic, social and environmental objectives for each region.

### Companies House: Disclosure of Information

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons Companies House returned to Book Keeping Services Devon Ltd of Kingsbridge confidential information about a company in Falmouth following its request for an increase in ordinary share capital of a different company based in South Devon; and if he will make a statement. [170675]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: This was the result of an administrative error. The information relating to the company in Falmouth was not confidential, but was intended for the public record.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced by his Department and its predecessor in each year since 1997. [172345]

**Mr. Thomas:** BERR is, as was the DTI, committed to the targets for energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions set out in the Framework for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate.

*Building carbon emissions:*

During the period 1990-2000 (Baseline year) to 2006-07, BERR and the former DTI HQ and its agencies have achieved a 14 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions from their buildings, as has been reported annually in the annual Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) reports published through the SDC and is shown in the table as follows.

*Total emissions from buildings*

| | *Percentage change since 1999-2000 base year* |
|---|---|
| Carbon emissions 1990-2000 Kgc | 5,152,249 |

*Total emissions from buildings*

| | *Percentage change since 1999-2000 base year* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 2 |
| 2001-02 | -6 |
| 2002-03 | 5 |
| 2003-04 | -14 |
| 2004-05 | -15 |
| 2005-06 | -17 |
| 2006-07 | -14 |

*Travel carbon emissions:*

There has been an increase of 3.8 per cent. in carbon emissions from administrative road-based travel since baseline levels relative to 2005-06 levels, although the Department remains confident it will hit the 2010 target.

### Departmental Computers

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many attempted hackings or suspected cyber attacks or other malicious computer security breaches were committed against the computer systems of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Registrar of Companies in each of the last three years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [167975]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency of each engagement was. [164502]

**Mr. Thomas:** Central records indicate that the Department has spent the following on consultancy services:

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 53.6 |
| 2006-07 | 40.2 |
| 2007-08 | [1] 16.3 |

[1] to date

I have placed in the Library of the House a list of companies that received payments for consultancy services in each of the last three financial years, together with details of the total amount paid to each.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data kept by his Department on individuals, businesses and other organisations. [168308]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many confirmed data security breaches there have been from his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [169899]

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12-month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; and what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures. [168330]

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168481]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169369]

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171421]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime

Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167233]

**Mr. Thomas:** The following table provides the list of manufacturers supplying software applications to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

| *Application* | *Version* | *Developer/Supplier* |
|---|---|---|
| Access | 2003 | Microsoft |
| Acrobat Reader | 7.0.7 | Adobe |
| AMO Client | — | CA |
| Arcview | — | ESR1 |
| Business Objects | 5.1.6 | Oracle |
| Calipsoe Admin | — | Oracle |
| Calipsoe Self Service | — | Oracle |
| Citrix Client ICA | 8.100.29670 | Citrix |
| Cortona VRML | 4.0 | Parallel Graphics |
| Crystal Reports | 8.0 | Seagate |
| DirX Discover | 6.0 | Fujitsu/Siemens |
| Discoverer | 4.1.37.00.0 | Oracle |
| Documents To Go | 2.0 | Dataviz |
| DPS Business Objects | 5.1.6 | AMS/Business Objects |
| DPS Client | — | AMS/Oracle Forms |
| Dragon Naturally Speaking | 7.0 | Scansoft |
| Druid | 1.8.1 | PRO |
| BERRnet | — | Fujitsu |
| Egg Timer | 2.11 | BTT |
| E-Trust (Client) | 7.1.501 | Computer Associates |
| eWebEditPro | 3.0 | Ektron |
| Exceed | 6.2 | HummingBird |
| Excel | 2003 | Microsoft |
| Faxination | — | Fenestrae |
| Flashplayer | 8.0 | Macromedia |
| Flowcharter | 2003 | iGrafx |
| FrontPage | 2003 | Microsoft |
| F-Secure SSH | 5.2 | F- Secure |
| Harvard Graphics | 6.0 | Harvard Graphics |
| HELD | — | XNP/Oracle Forms |
| HERMES | — | LCMG |
| HERMES Business Onjects | 5.1.6 | LCMG |
| IBIS | — | LCMG |
| Internet Explorer | 6.0 SP2 | Microsoft |
| Java JVM J2SE | 1 .4.2 | SUN |
| JAWS | V7.0 | Freedom Scientific |
| JetForms Filler Pro | 5.2 | Adobe (ex-Accelio) |
| Joint Infrastructure | — | Fujitsu |
| Knowledge Network | 5.012 | Lotus Notes |
| Lightspeed NVS | 2.4.0 | Light Speed Systems |
| MATRIX | 1.1 | Fujitsu |
| MATRIX Business Objects | — | Fujitsu |
| Media Player | 10.0 | Microsoft |
| MENTOR | — | Cap Gemini |
| MPST-POEMS | — | Fujitsu |
| MS Oriental Language Support | 2003 | Microsoft |
| NETg | — | NETg |
| Nfuse | 6.3 | Citrix |
| Notes Client | 7.0.1 | Lotus |
| OG Business Objects | 5.1.6 | Business Objects |
| OG Xwindows applications Client | — | Humming-bird |
| OLLIE | - | XNP ATOS |
| OmniForm | 4.0 | Scansoft |
| OmniPage | 14.0 | ScanSoft |
| Oracle Reports | 6.0.8.24.0 | Oracle |
| Outlook | 2003 | Microsoft |
| PaintShop Pro | 7.0 | Corel (was JASC) |
| Palm Vx support | — | Palm |
| Penserver Client | — | Claybrook |
| People@berr | — | Fujitsu |
| Point 'n Click | 2.1.0.13 | Polital Enterprises |
| PowerPoint | 2003 | Microsoft |
| Project | 2003 | Microsoft |
| Publisher | 2003 | Microsoft |
| RCO Client | — | CA |
| Sanctuary | 3.0.252 | SecureWave |
| SDO Client | — | CA |
| Shockwave | 8.5.1 | Macromedia |
| SQL *Plus | 9.2.0.1.0 | Microsoft |
| SSM Business Objects | — | Fujitsu |
| SSM | R109 | Fujitsu |
| Supernova | 6.51 | Dolphin |
| Text Help Read and Write | 7 | TextHelp! |
| Trapeze | 1 | TrapezeOnstream |
| Trim Captura | 4.3 | Tower |
| Trim TopDrawer | 4.3 | Tower |
| UtilEyes | — | Siemens |
| Visio | 2003 | Microsoft |
| Visio Viewer | 2003 | Microsoft |
| WARP | — | XNP |
| WinZip | 9 | WinZip |
| Word | 2003 | Microsoft |
| XML Spy | 2007 | Altova |
| XNP Business Objects | — | Business Objects |

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169029]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]*: The annual turnover rate for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory (BERR) from August 2007 to September 2007 was 18 per cent. The annual turnover rate for the same period for BERR plus UK Trade and Investment and the Office of Manpower Economics was 19 per cent.

The annual turnover rate for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) from August 2005 to September 2006 was 19 per cent. The annual turnover rate for the same period for the DTI plus UKTI and The Office of Manpower Economics was 18 per cent.

The turnover rate for the Department's agencies is not held centrally. Therefore the cost of preparing an answer for the agencies would be disproportionate to the benefit to be derived.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department, its predecessors and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167355]

**Mr. Thomas:** In the last full financial year (2006 to 2007), the former Department of Trade and Industry spent £7,910 on a revision of its brand guidelines through its central marketing team.

Identification of other spending on the management of its identity (i.e. through staff time) could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Costs for the former DTI's agencies for this period are not held centrally.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent by his Department and its predecessor on advertising in the last 12 months. [167965]

**Mr. Thomas:** In the last full financial year (2006-07) the then DTI and its agencies spent £821,830 on advertising via the Central Office of Information.

| *Activity in 2006-07* | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| Consumer Direct—Thomson Directories 2006-07 | 581,424 |
| DTI classified recruitment 2006-07 | 11,457 |
| ACAS miscellaneous advertising activity 2006-07 | 228,949 |
| Total | 821,830 |

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department have *(a)* been disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163678]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department's Human Resources Directorate holds central data for only 2006 and 2007 on staff who were formally warned (disciplined) as a result of a poor sick record:

2007: Eight (includes six who returned to effective working; two who were dismissed)

2006: 19 (includes 13 who returned to effective working; two who were successful in their applications for medical retirement; and four who were dismissed).

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171342]

**Mr. Thomas:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation, are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Energy: EU Action

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on UK energy policy of the European Commission Communication on a European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), COM (2007) 723, of 22 November. [171863]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The European Strategic Energy Technology Plan discusses the technology development needed to meet the EU's 2020 targets and 2050 vision, and proposes a number of actions to increase international collaboration and guide the EU's energy technology work going forward. These include:

The establishment of a Steering Group for Energy Research and Innovation, composed of representatives of member states, and designed to foster increased coordination of technology policies and programmes in member states.

A European energy technology summit, to bring together stakeholders in the entire innovation system, from industry to customers, as well as representatives of European institutions, the financial community and international partners.

The launching of European Industrial Initiatives in several energy technology areas. The Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative is an example of a new form of collaboration, with Community Research Framework Programme funding being used to co-finance a programme of research and demonstration with industry in a European public-private partnership.

Creating a virtual European Energy Research Alliance, whereby the European Commission intends to begin dialogue with heads of research institutes and higher education establishments with significant programmes, aiming to encourage enhanced collaboration in delivering coordinated research programmes.

The UK believes that collaboration in developing energy technology is an important part of the development of new energy technologies, and UK Government and industry currently engage with a wide range of EU programmes, including the Framework

Programme for Research and Technological Development, which provides funding for collaborative research. We are also closely involved in developing the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative.

A number of new initiatives may emerge from the ongoing development of the SET-plan, in particular with regard to the proposed European industrial Initiatives, and we intend to engage closely with the EU in developing these initiatives.

### Energy: Meters

**Mr. Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1150W, on energy: meters, when he intends to bring forward the necessary statutory instrument to enable consumers of energy to request real-time consumption display devices from their suppliers. [170563]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In August 2007, the Government consulted on a range of matters in respect of gas and electricity metering and billing. That consultation ended on 31 October, and the Government are considering responses, including those on the provision of display devices by electricity suppliers. The Government expect to respond to the consultation early in 2008.

### Engineering: Manpower

**Mr. Olner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the age profile of the UK engineering work force. [166295]

**Mr. Timms:** My Department has made no such assessment. Official statistics for the age profile of the manufacturing work force are as follows:

| *Age* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 16 to 19 | 2 |
| 20 to 24 | 7.2 |
| 25 to 49 | 62.2 |
| 50+ | 28.6 |

*Source:*
ONS Annual Population Survey workplace analysis (Nomis 2007)

### Engineering: Young People

**Mr. Olner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to encourage young people to undertake engineering courses. [166296]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to increasing the number of young people studying science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) as set out in the Science and Innovation Investment Framework and 2006 Next Steps. These commitments are focused on encouraging young people to study STEM subjects throughout the education system from the early stages and beyond. The Government are providing support for activities that help enthuse young people about engineering and science. For example, the Department for Children, Schools and Families sponsors the science and engineering after-school clubs run by STEMNET and the engineering education scheme which engages engineering companies with schools.

The DCSF is also in the process of commissioning a programme of careers support and guidance and a communications campaign, both with the aim of informing young people more about the varied and exciting opportunities that exist in STEM in pre and post-16 education and beyond.

From September 2008 young people will have the option of taking the Diploma in Engineering which will be available at all three levels 1, 2 and 3. The nature of the 14-19 Diploma programme means that young people acquire the education they need to progress to further learning and employment within the sectors that relate to their diploma of choice, and outside too.

The Department for Innovation, Universites and Skills funds the Science and Engineering Ambassadors scheme, run by STEMNET, for scientists and engineers to act as role models for schoolchildren. The DIUS also sponsors the Royal Academy of Engineering. One element of their work includes developing programmes to enthuse and engage young people in engineering subjects, for example, the Technology and Engineering in Schools Strategy (TESS), through which the professional community of engineering institutions and other stakeholders are taking a co-ordinated approach to work within schools to promote engineering and technology.

At HE level the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is funding the National Engineering Programme (NEP), of which the London Engineering project is the first part to get off the ground. After creating a successful working model with the London pilot project, the programme will extend to six other cities in England. Managed by the Royal Academy of Engineering, aims the programme to change the face of UK higher education in engineering, widening participation and strengthening engineering as a strategic subject.

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households in *(a)* the Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* each London borough and *(c)* England (i) are classified as living in fuel poverty and (ii) were classified as living in fuel poverty in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [171485]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Regional estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003 and are taken from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset—available online at

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

For Uxbridge constituency the dataset shows that there were an estimated 2,300 fuel poor households.

The following table shows fuel poverty levels for all the London boroughs.

| *London borough* | *Estimate of number of fuel poor households* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,900 |
| Barnet | 6,700 |
| Bexley | 5,000 |
| Brent | 5,300 |

| *London borough* | *Estimate of number of fuel poor households* |
|---|---|
| Bromley | 6,700 |
| Camden | 4,800 |
| City of London | 200 |
| Croydon | 7,700 |
| Ealing | 6,100 |
| Enfield | 6,000 |
| Greenwich | 5,300 |
| Hackney | 4,600 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3,800 |
| Haringey | 5,200 |
| Harrow | 4,000 |
| Havering | 5,000 |
| Hillingdon | 4,800 |
| Hounslow | 4,300 |
| Islington | 4,200 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4,100 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,200 |
| Lambeth | 6,100 |
| Lewisham | 5,900 |
| Merton | 4,200 |
| Newham | 5,800 |
| Redbridge | 5,200 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 4,100 |
| Southwark | 5,400 |
| Sutton | 3,900 |
| Tower Hamlets | 3,800 |
| Waltham Forest | 5,300 |
| Wandsworth | 5,900 |
| Westminster | 5,600 |
| Grand Total | 162,200 |

An estimate of the number of households in fuel poverty in England can be found in Chapter 2 of the "The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy: Fourth Annual Progress Report 2006", available online at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file29688.pdf

*Number of households in fuel poverty in England, 1996 to 2004 (Bracketed figures in millions are based on levels using the basic income definition)*

| | *1996* | *1998* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total fuel poor | 5.1<br>(5.5) | 3.4<br>(4.0) | 1.7<br>(2.3) | 1.4<br>(2.0) | 1.2<br>(1.5) | 1.2<br>(1.4) |
| Vulnerable | 4.0<br>(4.3) | 2.8<br>(3.2) | 1.4<br>(1.9) | 1.2<br>(1.6) | 1.0<br>(1.2) | 1.0<br>(1.1) |
| Non-vulnerable | 1.1<br>(1.2) | 0.6<br>(0.8) | 0.2<br>(0.4) | 0.2<br>(0.4) | 0.2<br>(0.3) | 0.3<br>(0.3) |

## Fuel Poverty: North West Region

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of households in the north-west were classified as living in fuel poverty in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [172063]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Regional estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003 and are taken from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset—available online at

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

In the north-west of England, there were approximately 2.8 million homes, of which an estimated 190,000 were fuel poor, giving a percentage of 6.7 per cent.

## Fuel Poverty: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* vulnerable households in fuel poverty in Tamworth constituency in each year since 1997. [173266]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Constituency level estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003 from the fuel poverty indicator dataset, available online at

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

This estimates that there were approximately 1,800 households in fuel poverty in Tamworth. The dataset does not hold breakdowns between vulnerable and non-vulnerable households.

## Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which external solicitors representatives of his Department have met to discuss miners' compensation; and on how many occasions this has happened in the last three years. [170553]

**Malcolm Wicks:** From the Department's records we identified meetings with the co-ordinating group representing claimants' solicitors which includes representatives of Thompsons, Irwin Mitchell and Hugh James, with whom regular meetings are held to progress issues arising.

Officials have also met Beresfords to recover overpayment of Optional Risk Offer Scheme costs. In 2005, there was a meeting with Browell Smith to discuss service improvements.

In addition, the Department's representatives Capita at meet the solicitors with the most claims through their solicitor liaison programme, and the Department's officials meet claimants' representatives through regular monitoring group meetings.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many letters he has received from claimants over his Department's handling of miners' compensation; and how many of those expressed *(a)* favourable and *(b)* critical views of his Department's performance. [170555]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Since September 2002 the Department has received 7,189 pieces of correspondence either directly from claimants or through their respective MPs with respect to the coal health compensation schemes. The Department does not maintain statistical information in the format requested. However, the majority of letters received from claimants are seeking information about the progress of their claims.

## Insolvency: Fees and Charges

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance he has issued on obligations for the liquidator of an insolvent firm to *(a)* consider the Official

Receiver's Rate when setting his fees and *(b)* ensure that a fair and proportionate percentage of the assets owned by the bankrupt firm are used to compensate the creditors. [171181]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: Statement of Insolvency Practice 9 provides regulatory guidance which insolvency practitioners must follow when seeking approval for their fees. Matters to be considered by the approving body (usually the creditors) include the effectiveness with which the insolvency practitioner has carried out his duties and the value and nature of the assets with which he has had to deal. In October 2004 the court issued a practice statement which provides guidance on matters that will be taken into account when the court is dealing with an application for review of remuneration.

Schedule 6 to the Insolvency Rules 1986 provides the percentage rates that may be charged on both the realisation and the distribution of assets where the remuneration of a liquidator or trustee has not been fixed by the liquidation/creditors' committee or the creditors at a general meeting. The percentage scale provided in Schedule 6 is taken from the scale that at one time was applicable to official receivers. However, provisions in the Enterprise Act 2002 introduced a new financial regime for official receivers, whereby creditors pay for the costs of the official receiver's administration of cases. Such costs are now provided for in a Fees Order and do not relate to the remuneration limits set out in Schedule 6.

### Macfarlan Smith Ltd

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 495-6W, on Macfarlan Smith's: monopolies, what the terms of reference of the analysis of the effect of Macfarlan Smith's position are; when the work began; when the analysis is expected to be completed; which Department is undertaking the work; and if he will make a statement. [168654]

**Mr. Thomas:** The terms of reference are as set out in the Government response to the Office of Fair Trading, published on 5 September 2006, looking at the prices charged in the UK by MSL and, where possible, contrasting this with the position in other countries. The Home Office is undertaking this work.

### National Nuclear Skills Academy: Public Appointments

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to announce the appointment of the first chief executive of the National Skills Academy for Nuclear; and when the appointment will begin. [168626]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: The shadow board of the academy appointed Jean Llewellyn to the post of chief executive earlier this month. The appointment was announced on the academy and Cogent websites and in press releases.

I am delighted that Jean has been appointed. Her sterling work as leader of the development team for the academy has given her unparalleled knowledge of the issues and I know she will make a success of the academy.

I will formally launch the academy at an event at the London Science museum on the evening of 31 January.

### Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

**Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the fulfilment by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of its statutory obligations under section 9(2)(a) of the Energy Act 2004 in relation to its dealings with the Harwell site. [171819]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority set out its approach to maintaining a skilled workforce in line with its duties under section 9(2)(a) of the Energy Act 2004 in its Strategy, which was subject to full public consultation and approved by the Secretary of State prior to its publication in March 2006. The implementation of all aspects of that Strategy is set out in Annual Plans, which are approved by the Secretary of State and against which progress is monitored. There is no requirement for and has been no site-specific monitoring of the application of section 9(2)(a) to individual sites by the Secretary of State.

### Nuclear Power Stations

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussion he has had on changing funding allocations to improve the way in which high hazard facilities are dealt with at Sellafield and Dounreay; what assessment he has made of the likely effect on Magnox funding of an increase in funding for Sellafield and Dounreay; and whether any consideration has been given to mothballing the Magnox site. [167068]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07) provides a generous settlement which will enable the NDA to fund a substantial programme of work across its estate in line with its duties, responsibilities and priorities. It is the responsibility of the NDA to allocate its budget in line with its priorities in consultation with its contractors and other stakeholders.

The NDA's draft business plan for 2008-09 was published for consultation on 7 November and the consultation period closes on 31 January 2008. This sets out the NDA's key objectives and plans for delivering its priorities over the next three years, for all the NDA sites and is available on the NDA website at

www.nda.gov.uk

### Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the retiring nuclear power stations are to be fully decommissioned and dismantled before any new nuclear power stations are constructed in the same precincts. [171227]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department is currently considering responses to the consultation on nuclear power. If the Government were to confirm their preliminary view that it would be in the public interest to allow private sector energy companies the option of investing in new nuclear power stations, we have proposed to undertake a strategic siting assessment (SSA), in combination with a strategic environmental assessment, to develop robust, objective and transparent criteria for assessing the suitability of sites for new nuclear power stations.

With regard to the question of 'whether retiring nuclear power stations are to be fully decommissioned and dismantled before any new nuclear power stations are constructed in the same precincts', any future uses of retiring nuclear power stations would need to comply with the existing site licence conditions of the Health and Safety Executive, as well as with other relevant safety and environmental regulations.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Terrorism

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether there will be enhanced specifications for any new nuclear power stations to strengthen resistance against the possibility of terrorist attacks; and if he will make a statement. [171125]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government set out their preliminary view on the future of nuclear power in the consultation document, published on 23 May. In the consultation document the Government recognise that although nuclear power stations pose some unavoidable terrorism risks, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), the security regulator, is satisfied that the existing security regime is robust and effective and that allowing new nuclear power stations to be built would be unlikely to materially increase the risks to the UK, because any proposals for new nuclear power stations would only be permitted to proceed if they met the stringent regulatory requirements in full, based on the most up-to-date threat assessments. For any new nuclear power stations, the OCNS would be involved in the generic design assessment stage with a view to security being built into the design, rather than retrofitted.

The consultation ended on 10 October and the Government are currently carefully considering the responses received before they make the decision in the new year.

### Political Levy

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* employers are required to (i) notify in advance and (ii) inform trade union members paying through their salaries by check-off should the amount and value of the political levy on their trade union subscriptions change. [171479]

**Mr. McFadden:** There is no statutory requirement on either the trade union or the employer to notify workers in advance if their check-off payments are to change.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the findings of the consultations on proposed post office closures will be published; and if he will extend the consultation period. [170640]

**Mr. McFadden:** I understand from Post Office Ltd that the consultation period for the east Essex and Suffolk area plan closed on 19 November and that it expects to announce final decisions on its proposals for post office closures and new outreach services on 13 December. No closures will take place until after the Christmas period.

As the Government's response to the national public consultation on the post office network explained, the arguments for a longer local consultation period were considered but the Government decided to confirm their decision on a six-week local consultation period reflecting the approach followed during the latter stages of the urban reinvention programme. The early stages of developing Post Office Ltd's area plan proposals involve detailed plan development discussions with Postwatch and the involvement of local authorities in advance of formal public consultation. The Government believe that when combined with the subsequent six weeks of public consultation, this enables sufficiently robust consultations to take place at a local area level. We are also mindful of the fact that the organisation representing sub-postmasters argued for a speedy local consultation to minimise uncertainty for sub-postmasters and customers.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices have closed in each of the 41 area plan areas for each year in which figures are available since 1997. [172711]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Post Offices: Sussex

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the Post Office's compliance with the Cabinet Office's good practice guidance on public consultations in relation to its current consultation in Sussex. [170121]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Cabinet Office code of practice on consultation applies to Government Departments and agencies. As required by the code, the Government consulted for 12 weeks on their proposals for the post office network.

Post Office Ltd's six-week local public consultations on its area plans are not on the principle of whether there should be post office closures and new outreach services, but on how such changes are to be implemented at the local level. This was made clear in the letter sent to MPs in July which said,

> "As you will understand, the consultation in respect of the Local Area Plan will not concern the principle of the need for change of the Network, nor its broad extension and distribution. Rather consultation will be seeking representations on the most effective way in which Government policy—as set out in the Response Documents—can be best implemented in the particular Area in question".

Before these local public consultations begin, Post Office Ltd seeks detailed input from Postwatch, local authorities and sub-postmasters in developing its proposals.

### Postal Services

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many items of post sent by his Department and its predecessor were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171291]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Radioactive Materials: Transport

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last discussed the security implications of nuclear waste being transported through London with *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police; and if he will make a statement. [169397]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government's security regulator for the civil nuclear industry, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS, part of the Health and Safety Executive), has had no discussions with the Mayor of London on the security implications of spent nuclear fuel being transported through London. However, the OCNS has discussed this matter with the Metropolitan police and on a regular basis with the British Transport police.

### Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken to ensure that radioactive waste from nuclear power stations is secure; and if he will make a statement. [171126]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Security measures at licensed nuclear sites and for the transportation of nuclear material (including spent nuclear fuel) are kept under continuing review in light of the prevailing threat and we are satisfied that existing procedures are robust and effective.

The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), part of the Health and Safety Executive, is the Government's regulator for security in the civil nuclear industry and is responsible for ensuring, inter alia, that the industry complies with the demanding requirements of the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (NISR 03).

The NISR 03 make provision for the protection of nuclear material, both on sites and in transit, against the risks of theft and sabotage, and for the protection of sensitive nuclear information, such as site security arrangements.

### Railways

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department and its predecessor on first-class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171263]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department spent £1,077,296 on first-class train tickets during the 12-month period November 2006 to October 2007.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice he has received on regional strategies and regional development agencies from the Ministers for *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* London, *(e)* the South East, *(f)* the South West, *(g)* the East Midlands, *(h)* the West Midlands and *(i)* the East of England. [166596]

**Mr. Timms:** Two of the nine RDAs, Advantage West Midlands and the East of England development agency, are in the process of reviewing the Regional Economic Strategies (RES): the other RES were reviewed prior to the appointment of Regional Ministers. The Ministers for the West Midlands and the East of England have worked with RDAs both on finalising the RES and on the work of the RDAs in their regions more generally. All the regional Ministers outside London have given advice on appointments to the boards of the RDAs, using the specifications, panel report and supporting documentation supplied by the selection panel for the RDA board appointments.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what renewable energy developments are now being investigated where hitherto Britain has not led the way, with reference to the Prime Minister's answers to questions following his speech on climate and energy policy on 19 November 2007. [167911]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In order to meet the challenging target of 20 per cent. of the EU's energy to come from renewable sources by 2020, we are taking steps to increase the amount of electricity, heat and transport fuel generated from renewable resources. I understand the question relates to my right hon. Friend's comments on biomass, marine and tidal range power and wind, each of which has a part to play in meeting this target.

We already plan to increase the capacity of offshore wind farms from the 400 MW currently installed to more than 8 GW, and we will shortly be announcing proposals to allow a further significant expansion. We are considering the barriers to further deployment, including the potential difficulties that wind farms pose to air traffic and defence radar and ensuring an appropriate balance between enabling offshore wind farms and protecting shipping. We will ensure that the new Marine Bill responds sensitively to the environmental issues that are posed by offshore wind farm development.

We are also exploring the potential for major new investment in energy from wave and tidal sources, and we have already announced a study of the feasibility of generating tidal energy from the River Severn. This alone could provide 5 per cent. of Britain's electricity needs. We have also announced that we will include tidal lagoons and barrages below 1 GW capacity within the scope of the renewable obligation, potentially benefiting projects such as those being proposed for Rhyl and Swansea Bay.

Meeting our target will also require greater use of renewables to heat our homes and our buildings, so we will introduce new measures to bring forward renewable heat with a call for evidence in January prior to a full consultation. And as we expand renewable heat we will need to ensure that wherever feasible and economic we generate electricity and heat together. So instead of all our energy being generated remotely, more can be supplied locally, making more efficient use of our energy resources. In transport we will do more to stimulate sustainable forms and sources of bio fuels.

We are also legislating to reform the renewables obligation and bring forward newer technologies, and we will introduce in our Planning Bill new measures to speed up the planning system for major infrastructure projects while ensuring that public are properly consulted.

### Wi-Fi: Public Buildings

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government have taken to provide Wi-Fi access to the general public in public buildings. [166958]

**Mr. Timms:** Some public authorities make wireless access available to the public in their buildings. For example, some 23 per cent. of library services currently deliver Wi-Fi with 42 per cent. actively planning to offer Wi-Fi in the future. Most of these services are providing Wi-Fi entirely free to the end user. This is a matter for public authorities individually. There is no Government policy on Wi-Fi access to the public in public buildings.

### Wylfa Power Station

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what is the estimated cost of extending the life of Wylfa power station for nine months beyond its planned closure date; and if he will make a statement. [167010]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has asked Magnox Electric Ltd to prepare a business case for extending the life of Wylfa power station by nine months beyond its planned closure date for consideration in early 2009. The business case will include a robust estimate of the costs of an extension. An initial study in November 2005 estimated that the cost of an extension would be some £110 million.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if his Department will collect information on the number of academies which use *(a)* selection by aptitude and *(b)* selection using banding as part of their admission arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [172132]

**Jim Knight:** We do not collect this information. Academies must abide by the schools admissions code as it applies to maintained schools, which includes statutory requirements on selection by aptitude and selection using banding.

### Academies: Pupil Exclusions

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consideration he has given to making academies set up prior to the 2006 model funding agreement more accountable for any permanent exclusions. [169306]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: Following the consultation exercise that ended in September 2007, Ministers will shortly consider a range of options for the financial consequences of permanent exclusion from academies.

Any decisions about new arrangements that might be introduced, including those affecting academies that already have signed funding agreements, will be announced in due course.

### Assessments: Standards

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to create an independent body to assess and report upon examination results and standards; and if he will make a statement. [171925]

**Jim Knight:** We plan to publish a consultation paper setting out our proposals for the future of qualifications regulation and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority shortly. This will set out the steps we plan to take to create the new independent regulator. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will make a statement to the House to announce the start of the consultation.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what marks were required in Key Stage 2 tests in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics to achieve a level (i) 4 and (ii) 5 in (A) 1999, (B) 2006 and (C) 2007. [172503]

**Jim Knight:** The following tables give the marks required to achieve a level 4 and a level 5 in the Key Stage 2 English and mathematics tests in 1999, 2006 and 2007.

*1999—Key Stage 2 English and mathematics*

| *Level* | *Mark range* |
|---|---|
| *English* | |
| 4 | 48-69 |
| 5 | 70-100 |
| *Mathematics* | |
| 4 | 52-79 |
| 5 | 80-100 |

*2006—Key Stage 2 English and mathematics*

| *Level* | *Mark range* |
|---|---|
| *English* | |
| 4 | 43-69 |
| 5 | 70-100 |
| *Mathematics* | |
| 4 | 46-77 |
| 5 | 78-100 |

*2007—Key Stage 2 English and mathematics*

| *Level* | *Mark range* |
|---|---|
| *English* | |
| 4 | 43-69 |
| 5 | 70-100 |
| *Mathematics* | |
| 4 | 46-78 |
| 5 | 79-100 |

## Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of schools built under the Building Schools for the Future programme have *(a)* up to and including 1,000 pupils, *(b)* 1,001 to 1,500 pupils, *(c)* 1,501 to 2,000 pupils and *(d)* more than 2,000 pupils; [170787]

(2) how many and what proportion of schools to be built under the Building Schools for the Future programme are expected to have *(a)* up to and including 1,000 pupils, *(b)* 1,001 to 1,500 pupils, *(c)* 1,501 to 2,000 pupils and *(d)* more than 2,000 pupils. [170788]

**Jim Knight:** The number of pupils in the schools that are expected to be rebuilt or refurbished in waves 1 to 3 of Building Schools for the Future is set out in the following table. This includes the early wins and the Bristol Brunel academy, which opened in September.

These are the current plans, which may change as projects develop. Plans for schools in later waves of the programme have not yet been finalised.

| *Number of pupils* | *Number of schools* | *Percentage of total* |
|---|---|---|
| 0 to 1000 | 230 | 56 |
| 1,001 to 1,500 | 155 | 38 |
| 1,501 to 2,000 | 22 | 5 |
| 2,000+ | 5 | 1 |

*Notes:*
1. Includes mainstream and special schools.
2. Waves 1 to 3 only.
3. Does not include recently built schools which are only receiving ICT funding under BSF.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of each local authority's likely total spending on the Building Schools for the Future programme; what the timetable of the programme is in each authority; and if he will make a statement. [172112]

**Jim Knight:** The latest allocation details for each local authority in Building Schools for the Future waves 1 to 4 are set out in the following table. For wave 4 authorities the detailed split between conventional funding (capital grant) and PFI credits is still to be determined. Some of these allocations may also be subject to change as projects develop, particularly for wave 4. Work is ongoing on initial funding envelopes for waves 5 and 6. Local authorities joining the programme in wave 7 or later will receive their allocations on or after 2011-12.

| | *Indicative funding (£ million)* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Conventional* | *PFI credits* |
| *Wave 1* | | |
| Bradford | 7 | 117 |
| Bristol | 8 | 157 |
| Greenwich | 57 | 184 |
| Knowsley | 4 | 250 |
| Lancashire | 34 | 247 |
| Leeds | 142 | 186 |
| Leicester | 165 | 151 |
| Lewisham | 9 | 119 |
| Manchester | 182 | 0 |
| Newcastle | 111 | 81 |
| Newham | 95 | 65 |
| Sheffield | 70 | 89 |
| Solihull | 29 | 87 |
| South Tyneside and Gateshead | 104 | 113 |
| Stoke | 190 | 0 |
| Sunderland | 119 | 0 |
| Waltham Forest | 62 | 54 |
| *Wave 2* | | |
| Birmingham | 209 | 92 |
| Hackney | 152 | 0 |
| Haringey w2 and 4 | 176 | 0 |
| Islington | 72 | 104 |
| Kingston on Hull | 149 | 159 |
| Lambeth | 87 | 0 |
| Liverpool | 167 | 0 |
| Middlesbrough | 103 | 0 |
| Nottingham | 126 | 67 |
| Tower Hamlets | 88 | 0 |
| *Wave 3* | | |
| Barnsley | 28 | 324 |

| *Local authority* | *Indicative funding (£ million)*<br>*Conventional* | *PFI credits* |
|---|---|---|
| Bradford | 112 | 0 |
| Durham (east) | 69 | 79 |
| Derbyshire (NE) | 60 | 55 |
| Kent | 151 | 99 |
| Lewisham | 68 | 102 |
| Luton | 100 | 32 |
| North Lincolnshire | 89 | 0 |
| Salford | 65 | 134 |
| Sandwell | 128 | 60 |
| Southwark | 145 | 83 |
| Tameside | 87 | 118 |
| Westminster | 152 | 0 |

| *Local authority* | *Indicative funding (capital value £ million)* |
|---|---|
| *Wave 4* | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 274 |
| Blackburn | 122 |
| Bristol | 101 |
| Cambridgeshire | 110 |
| Coventry | 137 |
| Essex | 126 |
| Hertfordshire | 153 |
| Kent | 143 |
| Manchester | 102 |
| Oldham | 195 |
| Rochdale | 171 |
| Sheffield | 222 |
| Somerset | 87 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 149 |

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when waves 7 to 14 of the Building Schools for the Future programme will be completed. [169124]

**Jim Knight:** Building Schools for the Future aims to renew all secondary schools in England where there is need, in fifteen waves of investment which started in 2005-06. We have now launched six waves of Building Schools for the Future projects, which include 72 authorities, allocating funding until 2010-11.

We are reviewing the roll-out of waves 7-15 of Building Schools for the Future and will consult on this shortly. Following the consultation, local authorities will be able to resubmit their expressions of interest, and we will publish the revised national programme for waves 7-15 later in 2008. This will give schools, planning authorities and the private sector good time to get themselves ready to deliver waves 7 and 8.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme: Closures

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools built under the Building Schools for the Future programme closed in each local authority area in each year since 2004; [171946]

(2) how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools built under the Building Schools for the Future programme are planned for closure in each local authority area. [171947]

**Jim Knight:** No schools which have been built or improved through Building Schools for the Future investment have closed or are planned for closure. Building Schools for the Future aims to renew all secondary schools in England where there is need in 15 waves of investment which started in 2005-06. Primary schools are not included in the Building Schools for the Future programme but in the Primary Capital Programme which starts in 2008-09 with 23 pathfinder authorities, and includes all authorities from 2009-10. Its aim is to improve at least 50 per cent. of all primary schools in 14 years, subject to future public spending decisions.

As authorities plan their investment in either of these programmes, they may include the closure of existing schools, for instance to reflect population movement. School organisation is a local matter, and there are clear statutory procedures including local consultation where changes to schools are proposed.

### Children: Disabled

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with European Union counterparts on the treatment of children with physical and mental disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [171222]

**Jim Knight:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any discussions specifically on this topic with his European Union counterparts.

This is an area of policy where the European Union does not have any formal competence and which is normally reserved to member states. However member states may agree to cooperate and share good practice where this adds value. UK Ministers and officials do take part in discussions on a variety of issues affecting children and young people, including disability, within the European Union, for example by responding to the Commission's recently published Communication on the Rights of the Child.

### Children: Hyperactivity

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support is available to parents whose children have attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder; and if he will make a statement. [170789]

**Jim Knight:** Agencies addressing children's needs are encouraged to work closely with parents and carers. For example, schools and local authorities are statutorily required to have regard to the special educational needs (SEN) code of practice; among other things, the code stresses the importance of all professionals (in schools, local authorities and other agencies) actively seeking to work with parents, valuing the contribution they make. The code also reminds local authorities that section 332A of the Education Act 1996 requires them to arrange for the parent of any child in their area with special educational needs to be provided with advice and information about matters relating to those needs.

The Children Act 2004 provides a statutory framework for cooperation between local authorities, partner agencies and other relevant organisations to improve outcomes for all children including those who have been diagnosed as experiencing an attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Given that this disorder often entails difficult or challenging behaviour, supporting the child to address his or her behaviour is in itself helpful to his or her parents.

Drug treatment for ADHD should only be initiated by an appropriately qualified health care professional with relevant expertise and should be based on comprehensive assessment and diagnosis. Continued prescribing and monitoring of drug therapy may be performed by general practitioners, under shared care arrangements.

Health care professionals are encouraged to work closely with education and social care services to ensure appropriate interventions are offered. These interventions should include focusing on the child's behaviour in the context of his or her relationships at home and in the classroom.

If there are concerns that a child may have additional needs which require a range of services, or it is unclear what his or her needs are, agencies are increasingly using the common assessment framework (CAP) to identify appropriate ways forward. Within the CAP and its associated guidance, there are prompts for practitioners to consider a wide range of factors and the potential role of other agencies.

### Children: Literacy

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to encourage parents to assist their children with learning to read at home. [167896]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Department is currently supporting a range of initiatives that are designed to encourage parents to become more actively involved in supporting their children with learning to read at home:

the provision of Bookstart and Booktime book packs to parents of all children in England aged between six-nine months, 18 months, and three years and at reception age, that encourages the sharing of books and reading aloud to their children;

the Family Reading Campaign with a focus on reaching homes where reading is not part of the family culture;

the Primary National Strategy's Communication, Language and Literacy Development (CLLD) programme that offers parents information sheets called 'Helping your child with speaking, listening, reading and writing';

family literacy, language and numeracy (FLLN) a programme that is designed to enable parents and their children to improve their literacy, language and numeracy skills together.

Looking ahead, the 2008 National Year of Reading will create a powerful focus for these initiatives so that parents and children better understand how reading can benefit their lives.

### Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission research into the underlying biomedical cause of myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [170254]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Innovation, University and Skills does not commission medical research. The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. Chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) is a strategic priority area for the MRC and the council is continuing to promote research in this area.

### City Technology Colleges: Free School Meals

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children at each city technology college established prior to 1 May 1997 are eligible for free school meals at each such school. [169837]

**Jim Knight:** The latest available information relates to January 2007 and is shown in the table.

*City technology colleges[1], number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[2], as at January 2007*

| | | | Pupil achievement and attainment tables[2] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *LEA number* | *School name* | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* |
| Southwark | Bacon's College | 882 | 279 | 31.6 |
| Wandsworth | ADT College | 885 | 219 | 24.7 |
| Croydon | BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology | 271 | 31 | 11.4 |
| Solihull | The City Technology College | 1,199 | 238 | 19.8 |
| Gateshead | Emmanuel College | 970 | 65 | 6.7 |
| South Gloucestershire | John Cabot City Technology College | 795 | 60 | 7.5 |
| Kent | The Leigh City Technology College | 1,109 | 73 | 6.6 |
| Northamptonshire | Brooke Weston CTC | 913 | 36 | 3.9 |
| Telford and Wrekin | Thomas Telford School | 839 | 100 | 11.9 |
| Croydon | Harris City Technology College | 866 | 99 | 11.4 |

[1] City technology colleges established prior to 1 May 1997.

[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration who are full-time and aged 0 to 15 (inclusive) and those who are part-time and aged five to 15 (inclusive).

*Source:*
School Census

## Class Sizes

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the ratio of teachers to children in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) the Uxbridge constituency, (ii) each London borough and (iii) England was in each year since 1997. [169975]

**Jim Knight:** The following tables provide the pupil:teacher ratio in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Uxbridge constituency, London local authorities and England in each January 1997 to 2007.

*Pupil:teacher ratio in local authority maintained primary schools in Oxbridge constituency, each London local authority and England, January 1997 to 2007*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 23.4 | 23.7 | 23.5 | 23.3 | 22.9 | 22.5 | 22.6 | 22.7 | 22.5 | 22.0 | 21.8 |
| Uxbridge constituency | 22.2 | 23.2 | 23.1 | 22.6 | 24.1 | 24.8 | 25.1 | 25.7 | 24.6 | 22.8 | 22.8 |
| London | 21.9 | 22.2 | 22.3 | 22.3 | 22.5 | 22.4 | 23.3 | 23.2 | 22.8 | 22.3 | 21.9 |
| City of London | 13.9 | 14.3 | 14.1 | 14.3 | 14.7 | [1]— | 16.7 | 23.2 | 16.9 | 22.5 | 21.9 |
| Camden | 20.0 | 20.2 | 20.5 | 21.0 | 20.9 | 20.3 | 21.4 | 21.5 | 21.6 | 22.0 | 22.5 |
| Greenwich | 21.1 | 21.4 | 21.9 | 21.4 | 21.4 | 21.5 | 22.8 | 22.3 | 22.5 | 21.5 | 20.9 |
| Hackney | 19.5 | 19.6 | 19.7 | 20.1 | 21.8 | 21.3 | 23.5 | 22.9 | 21.6 | 21.5 | 21.2 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 20.5 | 21.0 | 21.4 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.8 | 23.2 | 23.2 | 22.4 | 22.1 | 21.8 |
| Islington | 21.1 | 22.3 | 21.6 | 21.4 | 22.2 | 21.2 | 22.7 | 22.3 | 22.5 | 22.4 | 21.6 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 17.7 | 18.4 | 19.1 | 19.4 | 20.6 | 18.9 | 20.8 | 21.5 | 21.2 | 20.5 | 21.1 |
| Lambeth | 19.8 | 20.4 | 20.5 | 20.4 | 20.8 | 20.7 | 21.4 | 20.8 | 20.7 | 20.4 | 20.1 |
| Lewisham | 20.6 | 20.7 | 20.9 | 21.5 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 20.6 | 20.4 | 20.0 | 19.8 | 19.6 |
| Southwark | 21.8 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 22.0 | 22.8 | 22.2 | 20.9 | 20.5 | 19.3 |
| Tower Hamlets | 20.7 | 20.8 | 20.7 | 21.0 | 21.7 | 21.7 | 22.9 | 24.1 | 23.1 | 22.4 | 21.3 |
| Wandsworth | 20.5 | 21.2 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.0 | 20.3 | 21.4 | 21.4 | 21.5 | 21.0 | 20.8 |
| Westminster | 18.6 | 19.0 | 18.6 | 18.9 | 20.5 | 21.4 | 22.1 | 22.4 | 22.5 | 21.8 | 21.0 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 22.7 | 23.1 | 23.2 | 22.9 | 23.6 | 23.6 | 24.1 | 24.6 | 25.0 | 23.9 | 23.8 |
| Barnet | 21.3 | 21.4 | 21.5 | 21.3 | 22.2 | 22.2 | 22.7 | 23.0 | 23.4 | 22.4 | 21.7 |
| Bexley | 24.8 | 25.3 | 24.5 | 24.6 | 24.5 | 23.8 | 25.1 | 24.7 | 23.9 | 23.0 | 22.7 |
| Brent | 21.9 | 21.5 | 21.9 | 22.0 | 22.3 | 21.9 | 23.6 | 24.2 | 23.7 | 22.8 | 22.2 |
| Bromley | 24.4 | 24.8 | 24.3 | 24.2 | 23.6 | 23.4 | 23.7 | 23.7 | 23.9 | 23.4 | 22.8 |
| Croydon | 23.0 | 23.3 | 23.5 | 23.2 | 23.1 | 22.8 | 22.8 | 23.0 | 22.8 | 22.5 | 22.5 |
| Ealing | 22.5 | 22.8 | 22.9 | 22.8 | 23.1 | 23.8 | 24.8 | 24.8 | 24.6 | 24.4 | 24.4 |
| Enfield | 23.2 | 22.8 | 23.2 | 22.7 | 22.9 | 22.6 | 23.6 | 22.6 | 22.5 | 21.6 | 21.6 |
| Haringey | 21.1 | 21.8 | 21.5 | 22.5 | 22.8 | 22.7 | 23.8 | 23.4 | 23.3 | 22.7 | 22.1 |
| Harrow | 20.7 | 21.5 | 21.6 | 22.3 | 21.9 | 22.7 | 23.8 | 23.8 | 23.6 | 22.6 | 22.4 |
| Havering | 23.8 | 24.2 | 24.4 | 24.2 | 23.7 | 23.7 | 24.2 | 24.3 | 23.6 | 22.7 | 22.6 |
| Hillingdon | 22.6 | 23.4 | 23.2 | 23.1 | 24.0 | 24.4 | 25.5 | 25.2 | 25.2 | 23.5 | 23.0 |
| Hounslow | 21.5 | 21.8 | 22.0 | 21.9 | 22.2 | 22.8 | 23.7 | 23.0 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 22.3 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 23.9 | 24.1 | 24.3 | 24.1 | 22.6 | 23.8 | 23.2 | 22.0 | 22.5 | 21.8 | 22.5 |
| Merton | 21.7 | 22.0 | 22.6 | 22.1 | 21.9 | 21.5 | 22.7 | 23.2 | 22.9 | 22.9 | 22.7 |
| Newham | 24.3 | 24.4 | 25.4 | 24.7 | 24.5 | 23.8 | 24.9 | 24.5 | 22.3 | 21.3 | 20.7 |
| Redbridge | 22.9 | 23.0 | 23.0 | 23.3 | 23.4 | 23.1 | 23.2 | 23.3 | 23.1 | 22.8 | 22.4 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 21.7 | 22.2 | 22.4 | 22.5 | 21.9 | 21.7 | 21.9 | 21.6 | 21.9 | 21.5 | 21.3 |
| Sutton | 23.9 | 23.8 | 23.5 | 23.1 | 22.9 | 23.4 | 24.7 | 24.1 | 24.0 | 23.3 | 23.1 |
| Waltham Forest | 21.7 | 22.4 | 22.8 | 22.5 | 23.0 | 23.0 | 24.5 | 25.2 | 24.3 | 24.4 | 23.8 |

[1] Nil or not applicable.

*Source:*

School Census

*Pupil:teacher ratio in local authority maintained secondary schools in Uxbridge constituency, each London local authority and England, January 1997 to 2007*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 16.7 | 16.9 | 17.0 | 17.2 | 17.1 | 16.9 | 17.0 | 17.0 | 16.7 | 16.6 | 16.5 |
| Uxbridge constituency | 15.9 | 15.6 | 16.0 | 16.5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 18.8 | 17.9 | 17.9 | 16.8 | 17.2 |
| London | 15.9 | 16.0 | 16.1 | 16.5 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 16.9 | 17.1 | 16.5 | 16.2 | 16.1 |
| City of London | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Camden | 14.3 | 14.6 | 15.2 | 15.6 | 15.3 | 16.0 | 14.8 | 15.7 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 14.8 |
| Greenwich | 16.0 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 16.6 | 16.0 | 15.2 | 16.4 | 16.7 | 15.8 | 15.7 | 15.6 |

*Pupil:teacher ratio in local authority maintained secondary schools in Uxbridge constituency, each London local authority and England, January 1997 to 2007*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hackney | 14.9 | 14.5 | 15.7 | 15.5 | 17.1 | 16.9 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 16.3 | 15.8 | 16.0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 17.4 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 18.1 | 17.5 | 17.0 | 18.0 | 17.7 | 18.4 | 16.7 | 15.5 |
| Islington | 15.7 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 16.1 | 16.2 | 16.0 | 16.2 | 15.5 | 15.7 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 12.9 | 13.4 | 14.3 | 14.0 | 15.2 | 14.9 | 16.9 | 15.6 | 16.0 | 15.9 | 15.8 |
| Lambeth | 15.0 | 14.7 | 15.5 | 15.2 | 15.4 | 15.8 | 16.2 | 16.7 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 15.6 |
| Lewisham | 15.2 | 15.6 | 15.7 | 15.6 | 15.8 | 15.9 | 15.4 | 15.5 | 16.1 | 15.9 | 16.7 |
| Southwark | 15.8 | 15.9 | 15.8 | 16.2 | 16.4 | 15.9 | 17.1 | 17.4 | 16.2 | 15.7 | 15.1 |
| Tower Hamlets 15 | 0.9 | 15.8 | 16.0 | 16.3 | 16.1 | 16.1 | 16.2 | 16.9 | 15.1 | 13.9 | 16.6 |
| Wandsworth | 15.5 | 15.7 | 16.1 | 16.1 | 15.8 | 16.3 | 16.4 | 16.5 | 15.9 | 16.1 | 15.2 |
| Westminster | 14.9 | 15.2 | 15.0 | 15.1 | 15.0 | 15.1 | 15.6 | 16.7 | 15.5 | 14.5 | 14.8 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 15.7 | 15.8 | 16.0 | 16.3 | 16.8 | 16.6 | 17.4 | 17.1 | 17.4 | 16.8 | 16.6 |
| Barnet | 14.8 | 15.2 | 15.3 | 15.4 | 15.9 | 15.7 | 15.4 | 16.1 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 15.7 |
| Bexley | 17.4 | 17.4 | 17.2 | 17.6 | 17.8 | 17.9 | 18.7 | 18.7 | 18.4 | 17.6 | 17.8 |
| Brent | 15.2 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 15.8 | 16.0 | 15.7 | 16.3 | 16.7 | 16.1 | 16.1 | 15.7 |
| Bromley | 16.3 | 16.4 | 16.6 | 17.2 | 17.1 | 17.3 | 17.6 | 17.6 | 17.2 | 17.1 | 16.8 |
| Croydon | 16.2 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 16.9 | 17.3 | 17.4 | 17.3 | 17.9 | 17.6 | 16.8 | 16.4 |
| Ealing | 16.4 | 16.9 | 16.7 | 17.1 | 17.6 | 17.8 | 17.6 | 17.7 | 17.0 | 16.6 | 16.4 |
| Enfield | 15.9 | 15.8 | 15.9 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 17.2 | 17.1 | 16.4 | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| Haringey | 14.6 | 14.7 | 15.4 | 15.5 | 15.8 | 15.6 | 15.3 | 15.2 | 14.8 | 14.7 | 15.6 |
| Harrow | 15.5 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 16.8 | 17.0 | 16.7 | 17.3 | 17.2 | 16.6 | 16.5 | 16.0 |
| Havering | 16.3 | 16.4 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 17.2 | 17.3 | 17.5 | 17.7 | 16.9 | 17.2 | 16.5 |
| Hillingdon | 16.2 | 15.8 | 16.3 | 16.4 | 17.0 | 17.3 | 18.5 | 18.0 | 17.1 | 17.0 | 16.6 |
| Hounslow | 15.8 | 16.2 | 16.5 | 17.2 | 16.9 | 16.8 | 17.4 | 17.0 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.0 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 16.6 | 16.4 | 167 | 17.1 | 16.9 | 17.2 | 17.1 | 17.1 | 16.5 | 16.2 | 16.1 |
| Merton | 17.2 | 17.0 | 17.6 | 17.8 | 18.0 | 17.9 | 18.1 | 19.0 | 18.1 | 19.2 | 18.0 |
| Newham | 16.3 | 16.3 | 16.4 | 16.6 | 15.8 | 16.5 | 16.7 | 16.6 | 16.0 | 15.6 | 15.5 |
| Redbridge | 16.5 | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.8 | 16.7 | 16.6 | 16.9 | 16.9 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 16.6 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 17.0 | 16.6 | 16.2 | 17.9 | 18.4 | 18.3 | 17.6 | 19.1 | 18.0 | 18.7 | 17.5 |
| Sutton | 16.8 | 17.0 | 17.0 | 17.6 | 17.6 | 17.7 | 17.7 | 17.4 | 17.1 | 16.9 | 16.7 |
| Waltham Forest | 15.6 | 15.6 | 15.7 | 16.0 | 15.8 | 16.7 | 16.8 | 16.6 | 16.0 | 16.2 | 15.6 |

[1] Nil or not applicable.

*Source*:
School Census

## Curriculum and Standards Framework: Greater London

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Curriculum and Standards Framework funding was received by schools in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* the London Borough of Havering and *(c)* London in the latest period for which figures are available. [171209]

**Jim Knight:** The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for the Romford constituency is not available. The London borough of Havering has been allocated £17.92 million of revenue funding through the standards fund and school standards grants for 2007-08. Local authorities in Greater London have been allocated a total of £721.69 million of revenue funding through the standards fund and school standards grants. These allocations are in addition to the main revenue funding for schools, through the dedicated schools grant, of £141.74 million for London borough of Havering and £4,660.55 million for Greater London for 2007-08.

## Education Maintenance Allowance

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 629W, on education maintenance allowance, when he expects a copy of the Learning and Skills Council's analysis of the effect of the Education Maintenance Allowance Scheme to be placed in the Library. [172119]

**Jim Knight:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the operation of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Scheme. An analysis of the impact of EMA on participation and attainment has been commissioned by the LSC and I understand that the LSC placed a copy of the results of this analysis, with a summary of the key findings in the House Library, on 3 December 2007.

## Education: Expenditure

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what education spending in England as a proportion of gross domestic product was in each year since 1996-97, expressed to two decimal places; what estimate he has made of the equivalent proportions in each year until 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [172115]

**Jim Knight:** Education spend as a proportion of GDP is only available for the UK. The Government will increase UK spending in education as a proportion of GDP from 4.68 per cent. in 1996-97 to 5.64 per cent. in 2010-11. The full run of figures from 1996-97 to 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

*Total Government UK education spend as a proportion of GDP*[1]

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 4.68 |
| 1997-99 | 4.51 |
| 1998-99 | 4.43 |
| 1999-2000 | 4.40 |
| 2000-01 | 4.58 |
| 2001-02 | 4.89 |
| 2002-03 | 4.90 |
| 2003-04 | 5.14 |
| 2004-05 | 5.23 |
| 2005-06 | 5.37 |
| 2006-07 | 5.41 |
| 2007-08 | 5.53 |
| 2008-09 | 5.56 |
| 2009-10 | 5.55 |
| 2010-11 | 5.64 |

[1] Calculated as the ratio of UK education spend to UK GDP.

*Sources:*

ONS and HMT Public Expenditure Database

### Education: Gender

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what effect biological differences between boys and girls have on their respective attainment *(a)* in literacy and *(b)* overall, with reference to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 870-71W, on education: gender. [170298]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: As stated in the reply given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 870W, the reasons for girls' better attainment in literacy and indeed overall are complex, but appear mainly related to biological differences, differences in maturation, and differences in attitudes to learning and reading at different ages. The Department is unable to estimate the differential impact of these factors, but the research evidence is summarised in chapter 14 of the previously cited paper "Gender and education: the evidence on pupils in England".

### Educational Psychology

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when it will be possible for new entrants to submit applications for educational psychologist courses commencing in 2008. [170550]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: It is anticipated that the Children's Workforce Development Council will publish the handbook and application forms for courses for trainee educational psychologists (commencing in September 2008) in January 2008.

Further information can be accessed via the CWDC website at:

www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/educationalpsychology

### Foundation Schools

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list by local authority area those schools which have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted (i) trust and (ii) foundation status since 1 September 2006; and if he will make a statement. [169800]

**Jim Knight:** Schools do not have to apply to the Department for Children, School and Families to become a trust or foundation school. A change of school category to foundation and the acquisition of a trust are "prescribed alterations". To make such a prescribed alteration the governing body must publish proposals in accordance with provisions in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, regulations made under that Act and having regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State under that Act. The proposals are then decided by the governing body (or the Schools Adjudicator where proposals to acquire a trust have been referred by the local authority). There is no role for Ministers in the decision-making process.

A list of schools that have published and approved proposals to change category to foundation and schools that have published and approved proposals to become trust schools since the date specified has been lodged with the House of Commons Library.

*Schools that, as of 29 November 2007, have published proposals to become a foundation school (without a foundation) since 1 September 2006 (by local authority)*

| Local authority | School | Publication date | Decision date | Proposed implementation date | Decision type |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barnet | Hollickwood Primary School | 3 January 2007 | 18 April 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Bath and North East Somerset | Norton Hill School | 23 April 2007 | 24 May 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Bexley | Erith School | 27 February 2007 | 18 April 2007 | 4 June 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Brent | Sudbury Primary School | 11 January 2007 | 15 February 2007 | 1 April 2007 | Approved |
| Bromley | Cator Park School | 21 May 2007 | 20 June 2007 | 3 September 2007 | Approved |
| Cheshire | The Whitby High School | 30 October 2006 | 27 November 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |

*Schools that, as of 29 November 2007, have published proposals to become a foundation school (without a foundation) since 1 September 2006 (by local authority)*

| *Local authority* | *School* | *Publication date* | *Decision date* | *Proposed implementation date* | *Decision type* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cheshire | Tarporley Community High School | 8 November 2007 | — | 14 January 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Cornwall | Callington Community College | 10 January 2007 | 13 February 2007 | 1 April 2007 | Approved |
| Cumbria | Morton School | 15 September 2006 | 17 October 2006 | 18 October 2006 | Approved |
| Gloucestershire | Barnwood Park Arts College[1] | 31 October 2006 | 17 January 2007 | 1 January 2007 | Withdrawn |
| Gloucestershire | Barnwood Park Arts College | 17 January 2007 | 15 January 2007 | 1 March 2007 | Approved |
| Hampshire | Cowplain Community School | 16 November 2007 | — | 9 January 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Haringey | Fortismere School | 18 June 2007 | 19 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Hartlepool | Manor College of Technology | 26 February 2007 | 26 March 2007 | 16 April 2007 | Approved |
| Hertfordshire | Sunny Bank Primary School | 16 October 2006 | 22 November 2006 | 23 November 2006 | Approved |
| Isle of Wight | Sandown High School | 10 August 2007 | 17 September 2007 | 1 September 2008 | Approved with modification |
| Kingston upon Thames | Tolworth Girls' School and Centre for Continuing Education | 17 November 2006 | 31 January 2007 | 15 April 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Lambeth | Wyvil Primary School | 13 February 2007 | 26 June 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Lincolnshire | Boston High School | 9 May 2007 | 14 June 2007 | 31 August 2007 | Approved |
| Lincolnshire | Cherry Willingham Community School | 4 October 2007 | — | 5 April 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Milton Keynes | Walton High | 12 October 2006 | 13 November 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |
| Milton Keynes | Eaton Mill Primary School | 10 October 2007 | — | 7 January 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| North Somerset | Churchill Community Foundation School and Sixth Form Centre | 23 March 2007 | 18 October 2007 | 1 November 2007 | Approved with modification |
| North Somerset | Gordano School | 23 May 2007 | 30 August 2007 | 1 November 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Northamptonshire | The Latimer Arts College | 2 March 2007 | 17 May 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Northamptonshire | Sponne School Technology College | 26 June 2007 | 17 September 2007 | 1 October 2007 | Approved |
| Northamptonshire | Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School | 14 September 2007 | 30 October 2007 | 1 January 2008 | Approved |
| Nottinghamshire | Chilwell School | 11 September 2006 | 5 March 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Nottinghamshire | Redhill School | 6 November 2006 | 4 December 2006 | 2 January 2007 | Approved |
| Nottinghamshire | Carlton le Willows School and Technology College | 26 February 2007 | 7 June 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Oldham | North Chadderton Community School and Sixth Form Centre | 5 November 2007 | — | 1 January 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Oxfordshire | King Alfred's Community and Sports College | 28 September 2006 | 6 November 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |
| Oxfordshire | Banbury School | 1 March 2007 | 26 April 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |

*Schools that, as of 29 November 2007, have published proposals to become a foundation school (without a foundation) since 1 September 2006 (by local authority)*

| *Local authority* | *School* | *Publication date* | *Decision date* | *Proposed implementation date* | *Decision type* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oxfordshire | The Warriner School | 16 November 2007 | — | 1 February 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Reading | Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre | 8 June 2007 | 6 March 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Redcar and Cleveland | Eston Park School | 26 March 2007 | 28 June 2007 | 1 January 2008 | Approved |
| Sandwell | Shireland Language College and Sixth Form Centre | 12 September 2006 | 11 October 2006 | 12 October 2006 | Approved |
| Sheffield | Abbeydale Grange Specialist Media Arts School | 19 January 2007 | 6 March 2007 | 1 August 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Somerset | Ansford Community School | 8 September 2006 | 12 October 2006 | 1 April 2007 | Approved |
| Southampton[1] | Bellemoor School | 13 September 2007 | 18 October 2008 | 3 January 2008 | Approved |
| Staffordshire | Violet Lane Infant School | 11 September 2006 | 9 October 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |
| Stoke-on-Trent | Haywood High School and Engineering College | 16 April 2007 | 23 May 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Surrey | Weydon School | 5 October 2007 | — | 1 January 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Trafford | Sale Grammar School | 1 November 2007 | — | 1 January 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Trafford | Stretford Grammar School | 9 November 2007 | — | 7 January 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Worcestershire | Haybridge High School and Sixth Form | 19 October 2006 | 30 November 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |

[1] Withdrawn.

*Note:*

This list does not include those schools which have published proposals to become foundation schools with foundations—these foundation schools are shown as trust schools in subsequent tables.

*Schools that, as of 29 November 2007, have approved proposals to become a foundation school (without a foundation) since 1 September 2006 (by local authority)*

| *Local authority* | *School* | *Publication date* | *Decision date* | *Implementation date* | *Decision type* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barnet | Hollickwood Primary School | 3 January 2007 | 18 April 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Bath and North East Somerset | Norton Hill School | 23 April 2007 | 24 May 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Bexley | Erith School | 27 February 2007 | 18 April 2007 | 4 June 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Brent | Sudbury Primary School | 11 January 2007 | 15 February 2007 | 1 April 2007 | Approved |
| Bromley | Cator Park School | 21 May 2007 | 20 June 2007 | 3 September 2007 | Approved |
| Cheshire | The Whitby High School | 30 October 2006 | 27 November 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |
| Cornwall | Callington Community College | 10 January 2007 | 13 February 2007 | 1 April 2007 | Approved |
| Cumbria | Morton School | 15 September 2006 | 17 October 2006 | 18 October 2006 | Approved |
| Gloucestershire | Barnwood Park Arts College | 17 January 2007 | 15 January 2007 | 1 March 2007 | Approved |
| Haringey | Fortismere School | 18 June 2007 | 19 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Hartlepool | Manor College of Technology | 26 February 2007 | 26 March 2007 | 16 April 2007 | Approved |
| Hertfordshire | Sunny Bank Primary School | 16 October 2006 | 22 November 2006 | 23 November 2006 | Approved |
| Isle of Wight | Sandown High School | 10 August 2007 | 17 September 2007 | 1 September 2008 | Approved with modification |

*Schools that, as of 29 November 2007, have approved proposals to become a foundation school (without a foundation) since 1 September 2006 (by local authority)*

| *Local authority* | *School* | *Publication date* | *Decision date* | *Implementation date* | *Decision type* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kingston upon Thames | Tolworth Girls' School and Centre for Continuing Education | 17 November 2006 | 31 January 2007 | 15 April 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Lambeth | Wyvil Primary School | 13 February 2007 | 26 June 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Lincolnshire | Boston High School | 9 May 2007 | 14 June 2007 | 31 August 2007 | Approved |
| Milton Keynes | Walton High | 12 October 2006 | 13 November 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |
| North Somerset | Churchill Community Foundation School and Sixth Form Centre | 23 March 2007 | 18 October 2007 | 1 November 2007 | Approved with modification |
| North Somerset | Gordano School | 23 May 2007 | 30 August 2007 | 1 November 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Northamptonshire | The Latimer Arts College | 2 March 2007 | 17 May 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Northamptonshire | Sponne School Technology College | 26 June 2007 | 17 September 2007 | 1 October 2007 | Approved |
| Northamptonshire | Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary School | 14 September 2007 | 30 October 2007 | 1 January 2008 | Approved |
| Nottinghamshire | Redhill School | 6 November 2006 | 4 December 2006 | 2 January 2007 | Approved |
| Nottinghamshire | Chilwell School | 11 September 2006 | 5 March 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Nottinghamshire | Carlton le Willows School and Technology College | 26 February 2007 | 7 June 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Oxfordshire | King Alfred's Community and Sports College | 28 September 2006 | 6 November 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |
| Oxfordshire | Banbury School | 1 March 2007 | 26 April 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Reading | Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre | 8 June 2007 | 6 March 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Redcar and Cleveland | Eston Park School | 26 March 2007 | 28 June 2007 | 1 January 2008 | Approved |
| Sandwell | Shireland Language College and Sixth Form Centre | 12 September 2006 | 11 October 2006 | 12 October 2006 | Approved |
| Sheffield | Abbeydale Grange Specialist Media Arts School | 19 January 2007 | 6 March 2007 | 1 August 2007 | Approved with modification |
| Somerset | Ansford Community School | 8 September 2006 | 12 October 2006 | 1 April 2007 | Approved |
| Southampton | Bellemoor School | 13 September 2007 | 18 October 2008 | 3 January 2008 | Approved |
| Staffordshire | Violet Lane Infant School | 11 September 2006 | 9 October 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |
| Stoke-on-Trent | Haywood High School and Engineering College | 16 April 2007 | 23 May 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Worcestershire | Haybridge High School and Sixth Form | 19 October 2006 | 30 November 2006 | 1 January 2007 | Approved |

*Note:* This list does not include those schools which have approved proposals to become foundation schools with foundations—these foundation schools are shown as trust schools in subsequent tables.

*Schools that, as of 29 November 2007, have published proposals to become a trust school (i.e. a foundation school with a foundation) since 1 September 2006 by local authority*

| *Local authority* | *School* | *Publication date* | *Decision date* | *Proposed implementation date* | *Decision type* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | Sharnbrook John Gibbard Community Lower School | 10 June 2007 | 12 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Bedfordshire | Pinchmill Lower School | 10 June 2007 | 18 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Bedfordshire | Lincroft Middle School | 10 June 2007 | 14 June 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Bedfordshire | Margaret Beaufort Middle School | 10 June 2007 | 16 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Bedfordshire | Sharnbrook Upper School | 10 June 2007 | 10 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Bedfordshire | Harrold Priory Middle School | 10 June 2007 | 28 August 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Bedfordshire | Turvey Lower School | 10 June 2007 | 24 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Devon | South Dartmoor Community College | 5 June 2007 | 11 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Devon | Tavistock College[1] | 7 June 2007 | 17 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Withdrawn |
| Dudley | The Earls High School | 5 June 2007 | 9 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Dudley | Leasowes Community College | 5 June 2007 | 11 August 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Dudley | Windsor High School | 5 June 2007 | 11 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Durham | The Hermitage School | 11 June 2007 | 18 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Leeds | Garforth Community College | 5 June 2007 | 10 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Leeds | East Garforth Primary School | 5 June 2007 | 3 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Leeds | Garforth Green Lane Primary School | 5 June 2007 | 9 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Leeds | Ninelands Primary School | 5 June 2007 | 3 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Leeds | Strawberry Fields Primary School | 7 June 2007 | 10 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Leicestershire | Belvoir High School and Community Centre | 1 November 2007 | | 1 February 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Lincolnshire | The Central Technology and Sports College | 25 October 2007 | | 1 January 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Lincolnshire | Market Rasen De Aston School | 18 June 2007 | 17 July 2007 | 1 January 2008 | Approved |
| North Tyneside | Monkseaton Community High School | 4 June 2007 | 16 July 2007 | 20 August 2007 | Approved |
| Northamptonshire | The Ferrers Specialist Arts College | 4 June 2007 | 2 July 2007 | 3 September 2007 | Approved |
| Northumberland | Ashington Hirst Park Middle School | 11 June 2007 | 12 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Northumberland | Ashington Central First School | 11 June 2007 | 12 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Northumberland | Bothal Middle School | 11 June 2007 | 12 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Northumberland | Ashington Community High School Sports College | 11 June 2007 | 12 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |

*Schools that, as of 29 November 2007 have published proposals to become a trust school (i.e. a foundation school with a foundation) since 1 September 2006 by local authority*

| *Local authority* | *School* | *Publication date* | *Decision date* | *Proposed implementation date* | *Decision type* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northumberland | Ashington Wansbeck First School | 11 June 2007 | 12 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Oxfordshire | Banbury School | 16 July 2007 | 20 September 2007 | 1 January 2008 | Approved |
| Plymouth, City of | Widewell Primary School | 4 June 2007 | 9 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Somerset | The Blue School | 14 December 2006 | 30 January 2007 | 1 April 2007 | Approved |
| Stockport | Reddish Vale Technology College | 12 November 2007 | | 7 February 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Wakefield | Horbury School—A Specialist[1] Language College | 14 September 2007 | | 1 January 2008 | Awaiting decision |
| Worcestershire | Kingsley College | 25 May 2007 | 17 July 2007 | 1 September 2007 | Approved |
| Worcestershire | Woodrush Community High School | 4 June 2007 | 11 July 2007 | 3 September 2007 | Approved |

[1] Withdrawn.

## Further Education: Absences

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanism is used to measure the number of pupils aged 16 to 18 years attending *(a)* maintained sixth form colleges, *(b)* further education colleges and *(c)* maintained secondary schools being reported absent. [169150]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

## General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in maintained schools achieved five A* to C grades in 2007, excluding equivalents. [169125]

**Jim Knight:** The percentage of pupils in maintained schools who achieved 5 A* to C grades in the academic year 2006/07, excluding equivalents, is 51.9 per cent. If GCSE short courses and GCSEs in vocational subjects are included, this figure increases to 53.9 per cent.

This figure relates to pupils who were 15-years-old at the start of the academic year, i.e. on 31 August 2006. It includes any attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.

The 2006/07 data are provisional. Schools are given the opportunity to amend their results as part of the data checking exercise before the revised data is published in January.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils eligible for free school meals achieved five A* to C grades in English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language in the latest period for which figures are available; [169126]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals studied for a modern foreign language at GCSE in the latest period for which figures are available; [169127]

(3) how many and what proportion of the pupils who achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE gained English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language GCSEs in the latest period for which figures are available. [169131]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils studied *(a)* history, *(b)* geography and *(c)* a modern language GCSE in each year since 1997. [169128]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is given in the table.

*Number of 15-year-old pupils[1] entered for a GCSE in specific subjects in all schools, 1997 to 2007*

| | *History* | *Geography* | *Modern foreign language* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 207,486 | 259,809 | 432,459 |
| 1998 | 189,070 | 235,908 | 444,704 |
| 1999 | 188,934 | 229,802 | 455,385 |
| 2000 | 190,279 | 217,087 | 459,379 |
| 2001 | 195,231 | 220,378 | 473,393 |
| 2002 | 193,945 | 208,274 | 461,359 |
| 2003 | 194,801 | 200,127 | 453,914 |
| 2004 | 205,539 | 197,123 | 437,214 |
| 2005 | 202,591 | 186,706 | 372,704 |
| 2006 | 206,517 | 184,978 | 324,703 |
| 2007[2] | 202,781 | 183,304 | 299,174 |

[1] Those pupils aged 15 at 31 August at the start of the academic year.

[2] Provisional

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils studied for *(a)* 14, *(b)* 15, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 17 and *(e)* 18 or more GCSEs in each of the last three years. [169130]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the proportion of male pupils eligible for free school meals obtained 5 A* to C GCSE grades including English and mathematics in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by ethnicity. [169140]

**Jim Knight:** The available information has been placed in the Library. The figures have been taken from the Statistical First Release 'National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005/06 (Provisional)' which is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/index.shtml

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils achieving combined Level 4 at key stage 2 reading, writing and mathematics tests in each year between 1997 and 2002 subsequently went on to achieve five GCSEs at A* to C. [169142]

**Jim Knight:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in each London borough achieved more than five A* to C grades at GCSE in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [169238]

**Jim Knight:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

## General Certificate of Secondary Education: Mathematics

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who achieved Level 5 at Key Stage 3 mathematics in each year between 1997 and 2004 subsequently went on to achieve a C grade or above at GCSE mathematics. [169143]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is in the following table. The figures relate to pupils in maintained mainstream schools in England.

| | *Number of pupils at Level 5 in KS3 maths who achieved A*-C in GCSE maths* | *Percentage of pupils at Level 5 in KS3 maths who achieved A*-C in GCSE maths* | *Number of pupils at Level 5 or above in KS3 maths who achieved A*-C in GCSE maths* | *Percentage of pupils at Level 5 or above in KS3 maths who achieved A*-C in GCSE maths* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 42,600 | 32.7 | 251,800 | 70.6 |
| 2002/03 | 37,000 | 27.5 | 253,900 | 67.3 |
| 2003/04 | 35,800 | 27.6 | 271,500 | 68.5 |
| 2004/05 | 31,100 | 24.6 | 284,600 | 68.8 |
| 2005/06 | 29,100 | 23.4 | 298,800 | 69.0 |
| 2006/07 (provisional) | 32,400 | 26.1 | 313,400 | 71.0 |

## General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils gained (*a*) no GCSEs and (*b*) fewer that five A* to G grades including English and mathematics at GCSE in each year since 1999. [171159]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the percentages who achieve at least five or more A*-G at GCSE and equivalent, including English and maths GCSE and the percentages who achieve any qualification is in the following table and in table 1 of SFR 34/2007 'GCSE and equivalent results in England, 2006/07 (Provisional)'.

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000754/index.shtml

The underlying numbers can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Table 1: Time series of GCSE and equivalent attempts and achievements in all schools: years 1995/96 to 2006/07[1] (provisional)[2], coverage: England*

| | | *Percentage who achieved* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of pupils[3]* | *5+ A*-G grades inc English and mathematics GCSEs* | *Any passes[4]* |
| *15-year-olds* | | | |
| 1995/96 | 594,035 | 83.4 | 92.2 |
| 1996/97[5] | 586,766 | 83.9 | 92.3 |
| 1997/98 | 575,210 | 83.8 | 93.4 |
| 1998/99 | 580,972 | 85.8 | 94.0 |
| 1999/2000 | 580,393 | 86.8 | 94.4 |
| 2000/01 | 603,318 | 86.9 | 94.5 |
| 2001/02 | 606,554 | 87.1 | 94.6 |
| 2002/03 | 622,122 | 86.5 | 94.8 |
| 2003/04[6] | 643,560 | 86.7 | 95.9 |
| 2004/05 | 636,771 | 86.9 | 96.4 |
| 2005/06 | 648,942 | 86.8 | 96.7 |
| 2006/07 | 656,667 | 86.1 | 97.3 |
| *Pupils at End Key Stage 4* | | | |
| 2004/05 | 633,414 | 88.0 | 97.4 |
| 2005/06 | 645,931 | 87.8 | 97.8 |
| 2006/07 | 648,752 | 87.7 | 99.1 |

[1] Including attempts and achievement in previous academic years

[2] Figures for 2006/07 are provisional, all other figures are final

[3] Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year or from 2004/05 end of Key Stage 4 figures are the number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in that academic year

[4] From 2003/04 this includes attempts in entry level qualifications which do not contribute towards A*-C or A*-G thresholds

[5] Percentages from 1996/97 include GCSEs and GNVQs

[6] Percentages from 2003/04 include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in maintained schools sat English language, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, a foreign language and history or geography GCSEs in 2007; and how many of them achieved A* to C grades in all of these subjects; [171160]

(2) how many pupils in maintained schools sat English language, English literature, mathematics,

biology, chemistry, physics, a foreign language, history and geography GCSEs in 2007; and how many achieved A* to C grades in all of these subjects. [171161]

**Jim Knight:** The information in the following table provides figures for pupils in all schools. Figures for maintained schools can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*GCSE attempts and achievements in selected subjects of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in schools (numbers): Years 2006/07 (provisional) coverage: England*

| | | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Number attempted* | *Number achieved A*-C* |
| English | 618.3 | 389.5 |
| Mathematics | 617.0 | 354.1 |
| Physics | 53.6 | 46.9 |
| Chemistry | 51.0 | 46.8 |
| Biological Sciences | 54.1 | 48.7 |
| Geography | 185.0 | 123.4 |
| History | 204.2 | 136.9 |
| Any Modern Language | 301.4 | 200.2 |
| English Literature | 522.2 | 359.7 |

This information can be found in table 7 of SFR 34/2007 'GCSE and equivalent results in England, 2006/07 (Provisional)'

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000754/index.shtml

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which 20 English schools achieved the lowest GCSE success rates in the latest available year on the basis of *(a)* five A*-C at GCSE and *(b)* five A*-C at GCSE, including English and mathematics, and what the (i) local authority and (ii) school type was of each; and if he will make a statement. [172502]

**Jim Knight:** The information required is in the Library, in the Schools and Colleges Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Data for the academic year 2006/07 are not yet published. They will be available from the Library in January 2008.

## Head Teachers: Qualifications

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the National Professional Qualification for Headship will be compulsory for all new head teachers, including those changing schools; and if he will make a statement. [169796]

**Jim Knight:** The National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) will be compulsory for all new heads in maintained schools or non-maintained special schools, both for primary and secondary head teachers, but not deputies. The Education (Headteachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003, SI 3111 apply. This requires them to have, or be working towards, NPQH if they took up their first headship post in a local authority maintained school or a special school after April 2004. It will be mandatory to hold the qualification (rather than be working towards it) from 1 April 2009. The NPQH prepares candidates for the role of headship and is a benchmark qualification underpinned by the National Standards for Headteachers.

## Mathematics and Science: Teachers

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many mathematics graduates entered the teaching profession in each year since 1997; [171035]

(2) how many science graduates entered the teaching profession in each year since 1997. [171036]

**Jim Knight:** Data relating to all mathematics and science graduates entering the teaching profession are not held centrally.

The following tables show the number of mainstream final year postgraduate Initial Teacher (ITT) Trainees who have a first degree or a related degree in the subject of their ITT training and are known to have entered a teaching post six months after gaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) for trainees in:

*(a)* Mathematics

*(b)* Science

*(a) Mathematics*

| | *Number of final year mathematics ITT trainees known to enter a teaching post six months after gaining QTS* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *First degree in mathematics* | *First degree in mathematics related subject* |
| 1998/99 | 360 | 40 |
| 1999/2000 | 410 | 40 |
| 2000/01 | 390 | 30 |
| 2001/02 | 400 | 40 |
| 2002/03 | 420 | 280 |
| 2003/04 | 590 | 380 |
| 2004/05 | 610 | 370 |
| 2005/06 | 580 | 390 |

*Source*
TDA's Performance Profiles

*(b) Science*

| | *Number of final year science ITT trainees known to enter a teaching post six months after gaining QTS* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *First degree in science* | *First degree in science related subject* |
| 1998/99 | 870 | 270 |
| 1999/2000 | 910 | 260 |
| 2000/01 | 900 | 360 |
| 2001/02 | 970 | 440 |
| 2002/03 | 490 | 840 |
| 2003/04 | 550 | 1,060 |

*(b) Science*

| | *Number of final year science ITT trainees known to enter a teaching post six months after gaining QTS* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *First degree in science* | *First degree in science related subject* |
| 2004/05 | 530 | 1,020 |
| 2005/06 | 570 | 1,190 |

*Notes*

1. Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes (EBR).

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Data relating to the employment status of trainees through EBR are not currently collected.

4. The method of classifying degree subjects changed as a result of the introduction of the JACS coding structure in 2002/03. Data collected prior to this date under the HESA coding system cannot be directly compared using the direct match alone. Therefore figures which a direct match and a related match to the subject of ITT training have been presented.

5. Performance profiles data are collected at the end of a trainees first year, therefore 2006/07 data are collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.

6. The table above only covers those who hold a first degree in the subject of their ITT training course, it does not cover those who have a first degree in mathematics or science but are entering an ITT course which is not mathematics or science.

7. There are additional postgraduate trainees on mathematics and science ITT courses where the first degree is unknown, so there are potentially more mathematics and science graduates entering teaching posts.

8. Figures include trainees who enter maintained schools, non-maintained schools and schools where the sector is unknown.

9. Trainees known not to be employed in teaching posts six months after gaining QTS include those who are seeking a teaching post and those who are not seeking a teaching post and those with an unknown destination.

10. The above figures only cover those who are known to enter a teaching post six months after gaining QTS, therefore those who enter teaching after this will not be covered. This will also not include graduates who enter teaching who are not Newly Qualified Teachers.

*Source:*

TDA's Performance Profiles

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mathematics graduates entered training to become secondary school teachers in each year since 1997. [171037]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the number of Mathematics graduates and the number of graduates with a degree relating to Mathematics who were entering postgraduate Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses to qualify as a secondary school teacher in mathematics, through Mainstream ITT and Employment Based Routes (EBR), between 1998/99 and 2005/06

| | *Number of mathematics graduates entering ITT courses in mathematics* | | *Number of graduates with a degree relating to mathematics entering ITT courses in mathematics* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Year of entry* | *Mainstream* | *EBR* | *Mainstream* | *EBR* |
| 1998/99 | 470 | — | 60 | — |
| 1999/2000 | 570 | — | 70 | — |
| 2000/01 | 540 | — | 40 | — |
| 2001/02 | 550 | — | 60 | — |
| 2002/03 | 620 | 100 | 440 | 180 |
| 2003/04 | 790 | 190 | 560 | 200 |
| 2004/05 | 810 | 230 | 570 | 170 |
| 2005/06 | 800 | 250 | 580 | 140 |

*Notes*

1. Mainstream includes Universities and other Higher Education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Data relating to postgraduates first degree was not collected prior to 2002/03 for trainees entering ITT through EBR.

4. The method of classifying degree subjects changed as a result of the introduction of the JACS coding structure in 2002/03. Data collected prior to this date under the HESA coding system cannot be directly compared using the direct match alone. Therefore figures which a direct match and a related match to mathematics have been presented.

5. Performance profiles data is collected at the end of a trainees first year, therefore 2006/07 data is collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.

6. The table above only covers those who hold a first degree in the subject of their ITT training course, it does not cover those who have a first degree in mathematics but are entering an ITT course which is not mathematics.

7. There are additional postgraduate trainees where the first degree is unknown.

*Source:*

TDA's Performance Profiles

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many science graduates completed training as secondary school teachers in each year since 1997. [171524]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) outcome for science graduates and graduates with a degree relating to science who were Initial Teacher Training (ITT) postgraduate final year trainees in science between 1998/99 and 2005/06, through Mainstream ITT and Employment Based Routes (EBR).

| | | *Postgraduate science trainees with a degree in science* | | *Postgraduate science trainees with a degree in a science related subject* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Route to ITT* | *Total number final year of trainees* | *Number of final year trainees gaining QTS* | *Total number final year of trainees* | *Number of final year trainees gaining QTS* |
| 1999/98 | Mainstream | 1,250 | 1,070 | 400 | 340 |
| | EBR | — | — | — | — |
| 1999/2000 | Mainstream | 1,320 | 1,110 | 370 | 300 |
| | EBR | — | — | — | — |
| 2000/01 | Mainstream | 1,230 | 1,060 | 500 | 420 |
| | EBR | — | — | — | — |
| 2001/02 | Mainstream | 1,310 | 1,120 | 570 | 490 |
| | EBR | — | — | — | — |
| 2002/03 | Mainstream | 710 | 630 | 1,180 | 1,030 |
| | EBR | 180 | 160 | 220 | 200 |
| 2003/04 | Mainstream | 790 | 680 | 1,520 | 1,280 |
| | EBR | 200 | 170 | 250 | 220 |

| | Route to ITT | Postgraduate science trainees with a degree in science: Total number final year of trainees | Postgraduate science trainees with a degree in science: Number of final year trainees gaining QTS | Postgraduate science trainees with a degree in a science related subject: Total number final year of trainees | Postgraduate science trainees with a degree in a science related subject: Number of final year trainees gaining QTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004/05 | Mainstream | 750 | 620 | 1,450 | 1,200 |
| | EBR | 30 | 30 | 560 | 520 |
| 2005/06 | Mainstream | 750 | 660 | 1,720 | 1,430 |
| | EBR | 110 | 100 | 510 | 440 |

*Notes:*

1. Mainstream includes Universities and other Higher Education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. * represents values which round to under 10

3. Data relating to postgraduates first degree was not collected prior to 2002/03 for trainees entering ITT through EBR

4. The method of classifying degree subjects changed as a result of the introduction of the JACS coding structure in 2002/03. Data collected prior to this date under the HESA coding system cannot be directly compared using the direct match alone. Therefore figures which a direct match and a related match to science have been presented.

5. Performance profiles data is collected at the end of a trainees first year, therefore 2006/07 data is collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.

6. The table above only covers those who hold a first degree in the subject of their ITT training course, it does not cover those who have a first degree in science but are entering an ITT course which is not science.

7. There are additional postgraduate trainees on science ITT courses where the first degree is unknown, so there are potentially more science graduates gaining QTS in science ITT.

8. Trainees who have not gained QTS include final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test was not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skill test has not been taken (include those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).

*Source:*

TDA's Performance Profiles

## National Council for Educational Excellence

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times the National Council for Educational Excellence has met since June 2007; what recommendations it has produced; and if he will publish its *(a)* agendas and *(b)* conclusions. [172097]

**Jim Knight:** The council met on 18 July, 13 September and 20 November 2007.

Copies of the agenda, summary note and full minutes for each meeting have been placed in the Library, as well as a report of council members' views and advice about setting 10 year goals for world class education performance. These papers provide an overview of the council's work to date.

## Children's Plan: Primary Education

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to extend the academies programme to primary and junior schools; and if he will make a statement. [169289]

**Jim Knight:** There are currently no plans for the Academies programme to extend to schools solely catering for pupils of primary or junior school age. However, the programme does extend to all-age academies and there are currently eight all-through academies (providing education for all ages from three to 19), with a further six in the pipeline.

Sponsors may also enter an academy proposal in any of the competitions now required under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 for most new and replacement primary and secondary schools.

## Primary Education: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were in maintained primary schools in each year since 1997. [169805]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is largely published in SFR 30/2007 "Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)", which can be found via the following link: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml. The information requested is given in the following table:

*Number of pupils in LA maintained primary[1] schools: Position in January each year: 1997 to 2007: England*

| | Number of pupils (headcount)[2] |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 4,429,040 |
| 1998 | 4,460,650 |
| 1999 | 4,460,170 |
| 2000 | 4,435,350 |
| 2001 | 4,406,220 |
| 2002 | 4,363,340 |
| 2003 | 4,309,030 |
| 2004 | 4,252,540 |
| 2005 | 4,204,500 |
| 2006 | 4,148,950 |
| 2007 | 4,107,680 |

[1] Includes middle schools that are deemed primary schools.

[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.

*Source:*

School Census

## Primary Education: Teachers

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the proportion of applicants accepted on to a primary teacher training course was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [169803]

**Jim Knight:** Applications for primary initial teacher training (ITT) can be for either an undergraduate or postgraduate course. The number of trainees accepted to undergraduate ITT courses is not held centrally so it is not possible to calculate the overall proportion of applications which are accepted.

The following table shows the number of postgraduate applicants and acceptances to primary ITT courses in England along with the proportion of these applications which were accepted in each year between 2001/02 and 2007/08.

| *Year of application* | *Number of applications to primary postgraduate ITT courses* | *Number of acceptances to primary postgraduate ITT courses* | *Proportion of postgraduate application to primary ITT courses which are accepted (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 14,200 | 6,610 | 47 |
| 2002/03 | 16,690 | 7,770 | 47 |
| 2003/04 | 19,450 | 8,850 | 45 |
| 2004/05 | 20,180 | 9,320 | 46 |
| 2005/06 | 19,960 | 9,110 | 46 |
| 2006/07 | 20,000 | 8,540 | 43 |
| 2007/08 | 19,070 | 8,330 | 44 |

*Notes:*

1. Data prior to 2001/02 is not available on a consistent basis for England only.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Some applications for postgraduate ITT courses are made independently of the Graduate Teacher Training Registry and are not included in the figures.
4. The aforementioned figures include trainees to primary courses and do not include trainees to middle year's courses.
5. Data are as at the end of the application process so are subject to change.
6. Membership to the GTTR changes between years, therefore the higher education institutes covered may vary.

*Source:*
Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR).

The figures are published on the GTTR website at:

http://www.gttr.ac.uk/stats.html

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified primary school teachers worked in maintained primary schools in each year since 1997. [169804]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is given in table 2 of SFR29/2007 School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised) which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

The following table shows the available figures, in thousands, for full-time equivalent regular qualified teachers in maintained nursery and primary schools as at January each year.

| | *Qualified regular teachers* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 190.7 |
| 1998 | 189.0 |
| 1999 | 189.9 |
| 2000 | 191.6 |
| 2001 | 192.6 |
| 2002 | 193.1 |
| 2003 | 191.9 |
| 2004 | 190.4 |
| 2005 | 189.9 |
| 2006 | 192.0 |
| 2007 | 191.6 |

*Source:*
The DCSF Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies (618g).

## Children's Plan: Public Participation

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made in its consultation on the proposed children's plan; and when he expects the consultation process to be completed. [168311]

**Ed Balls:** The consultation on the Children's Plan was conducted during September, October and early November 2007. We obtained views from children, young people, parents and those working with children and young people. 3,181 responses were received. The responses, alongside the views of 400 parents, young people, teachers and people working with children who attended deliberative debates are captured in a report of the key themes emerging from the consultation. The findings of three expert groups, remitted to look at services affecting children and young people, are also big considered.

The consultation process is now complete.

## Pupil Referral Units

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were sent to a pupil referral unit within six months of reaching the end of key stage 4 in the past year. [171038]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not collected centrally.

## Pupils: Accidents

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the number of road accidents involving school children of introducing British summer time in winter and double British summer time in summer. [172343]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

A Government commissioned report by the Transport Research Laboratory published in October 1998, investigated the effects of the UK adopting single/double summertime (i.e. GMT + one hour in the winter, from October to March, and GMT + two hours in the summer, from March to October) thereby making the evenings lighter throughout the year. It concluded that, there could be a net saving of over 400 people killed or seriously injured per year in Great Britain, including over 100 deaths.

The 1998 research did not identify casualty savings by age.

## Pupils: Attendance

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attended secondary schools in which there were *(a)* over 1,000, *(b)* over 1,500 and *(c)* over 2,000 pupils in each year since 1997. [169139]

**Jim Knight:** To provide a full-time series since 1997 would involve disproportionate cost. Therefore the available information for a selection of years between 1997 and 2007 are given in the following table:

*Maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: number of schools and pupils by size of school[2], England*

*Schools with up to and including 1,000 pupils*

| Position in January each year | Number of schools | Number of pupils | Percentage of pupils[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 2,429 | 1,612,510 | 52.8 |
| 1999 | 2,322 | 1,557,650 | 49.6 |
| 2000 | 2,226 | 1,497,750 | 46.8 |
| 2002 | 1,997 | 1,384,420 | 42.2 |
| 2005 | 1,839 | 1,296,690 | 38.7 |
| 2006 | 1,830 | 1,292,490 | 38.6 |
| 2007 | 1,841 | 1,290,040 | 38.8 |

*Schools with 1,001 to 1,500 pupils*

| Position in January each year | Number of schools | Number of pupils | Percentage of pupils[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,019 | 1,216,690 | 39.8 |
| 1999 | 1,080 | 1,292,450 | 41.2 |
| 2000 | 1,146 | 1,377,020 | 43.1 |
| 2002 | 1,236 | 1,492,860 | 45.5 |
| 2005 | 1,296 | 1,572,330 | 47.0 |
| 2006 | 1,295 | 1,573,270 | 47.0 |
| 2007 | 1,270 | 1,539,480 | 46.3 |

*Schools with 1,501 to 2,000 pupils*

| Position in January each year | Number of schools | Number of pupils | Percentage of pupils[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 130 | 215,010 | 7.0 |
| 1999 | 167 | 275,210 | 8.8 |
| 2000 | 186 | 308,740 | 9.7 |
| 2002 | 225 | 374,980 | 11.4 |
| 2005 | 261 | 435,420 | 13.0 |
| 2006 | 259 | 433,640 | 13.0 |
| 2007 | 266 | 444,480 | 13.4 |

*Schools with more than 2,000 pupils*

| Position in January each year | Number of schools | Number of pupils | Percentage of pupils[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 6 | 12,650 | 0.4 |
| 1999 | 6 | 12,790 | 0.4 |
| 2000 | 7 | 14,900 | 0.5 |
| 2002 | 13 | 27,990 | 0.9 |
| 2005 | 20 | 43,240 | 1.3 |
| 2006 | 21 | 45,090 | 1.3 |
| 2007 | 22 | 47,540 | 1.4 |

*All schools*

| Position in January each year | Number of schools | Number of pupils | Percentage of pupils[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 3,584 | 3,056,870 | 100.0 |
| 1999 | 3,575 | 3,138,090 | 100.0 |
| 2000 | 3,565 | 3,198,410 | 100.0 |
| 2002 | 3,471 | 3,280,250 | 100.0 |
| 2005 | 3,416 | 3,347,680 | 100.0 |
| 2006 | 3,405 | 3,344,490 | 100.0 |
| 2007 | 3,399 | 3,321,530 | 100.0 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Based on a headcount of pupils. Excludes dually registered pupils.

[3] The number of pupils by size band of schools expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.

*Note:*

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

School Census

## Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average spending per secondary school pupil was in *(a)* the city of Leicester, *(b)* Leicestershire and *(c)* England in the last period for which figures are available. [170770]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is contained within the following table:

*School based expenditure[1] [2] per pupil[3] by local authority maintained secondary schools in Leicester, Leicestershire and England during 2006-07[4]*

| Local authority name | Secondary school based expenditure per pupil[1] [2] [3] [4] [5] (£) |
|---|---|
| England | 4,320 |
| Leicestershire | 3,890 |
| Leicester | 4,600 |

[1] School-based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.

[2] Secondary school based expenditure includes any expenditure on 6th form pupils attending maintained secondary schools.

[3] Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained secondary schools and are drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[4] 2006-07 data is subject to change by the local authority.

[5] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[6] Cash term figures as reported by local authorities as at 29 November 2007.

## Reading: Teaching Methods

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to promote synthetic phonics for the teaching of reading in primary schools. [169163]

**Jim Knight:** The importance of phonics in the teaching of reading has always played a key part in our guidance to primary schools. Following the publication of Sir Jim Rose's "Independent review of the teaching of early reading", we accepted all of the review's recommendations, and we have paid particular attention to the recommendation that phonics should be taught as the prime approach to learning to read. We have renewed the Primary National Strategy's framework for teaching literacy to reflect this. The renewed framework now says that systematic phonics is the best route to teach children to read. With help from Jim Rose, we have developed a high quality systematic phonics teaching programme, Letters and Sounds, to support teachers in implementing these changes. To help schools that wish to choose a commercial scheme instead, we have published guidance on a set of criteria which define the key features of an effective phonics teaching programme and which build directly on the review's recommendations for high quality phonic work. Publishers of such schemes are able to provide a self-evaluation against these criteria on our phonics website.

We have taken steps to ensure that local authorities have the capacity and expertise to support schools in developing effective phonics teaching. The Primary National Strategy's Communication, Language and Literacy Development programme has provided training in early reading for every local authority and funded additional consultants to lead this work in 50 targeted local authorities. This programme will build greater quality and capacity in the teaching of early literacy through developing work on speaking and listening and strengthening leadership and management of early literacy in schools.

We are also working with local authorities and the Training and Development Agency to ensure that newly qualified practitioners are equipped with the necessary skills to implement the recommendations from Sir Jim Rose's review.

### School Leaving

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sanctions may be applied to young people aged 16 to 18 years who fail to pay fines imposed as a consequence of not being in education or training at age 16 to 18 years under the Education and Skills Bill if enacted; and if he will make a statement. [171927]

**Jim Knight:** The young person can avoid the enforcement process, as it is designed as a deterrent. They can do this by complying with their duty to participate; having a reasonable justification as to why they were not participating; or by showing that they are taking the right steps towards participation. In these cases the young person would not get a fixed penalty notice. If the young person does not pay the fixed penalty notice the local authority will have the power to prosecute them in the Youth court. If a fine is unpaid, it is enforceable using the Youth court's usual powers, such as taking the money from wages or imposing an unpaid work requirement.

### Schools: Biometrics

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued on the *(a)* use of and *(b)* merits of consultation with parents in relation to the sharing and disposal of data on change of school in relation to biometric identification systems in schools. [167621]

**Jim Knight:** Guidance on the implementation and use of biometric data in schools is available on Becta's website at:

http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss_lv_saf_dp_03&rid=14160

The guidance, published in July 2007 by Becta and developed in consultation with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Information Commissioner's Office, advises schools to fully involve parents in any decision to introduce biometric or fingerprint technology to run cashless lunch queues, school libraries and attendance systems.

The guidance underlines that head teachers and governing bodies should be clear and open with all parents and pupils about this and all aspects of their education. The guidance also signposts further advice and support for schools to assist them in meeting their obligations under the Data Protection Act, including ensuring that personal data is kept safe and secure and is not held for longer than necessary. As soon as any pupil leaves a school, their biometric identification data collected for administrative technology systems should be destroyed.

In addition, the Information Commissioner's Office have published their view on the use of biometric technologies in schools. This is available at:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/detailed_specialist_guides/fingerprinting_final_view.pdf

### Schools: Catering

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what target he has set for the number of schools which should have kitchens with cooking facilities; and if he will make a statement. [172111]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has not set a target for the number of schools which should have kitchens with cooking facilities. Schools can deliver hot food in a number of different ways, some of which do not require kitchen facilities.

The Government are making a significant capital investment to improve school buildings. This includes a specific fund of £150 million for local authorities from 2008 to support the provision of new kitchens in local authorities with the greatest need.

### Schools: Closures

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools closed in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [171945]

**Jim Knight:** Tables showing the number of secondary and primary schools closed in each year since 1997, by local authority, have been placed in the Library.

Schools can be closed for a number of reasons including: to meet demographic changes (population decline); as part of an amalgamation; to allow a Fresh Start school to replace a school in special measures; to allow a school with a religious character to replace a school without a religious character; or as part of another type of local reorganisation.

The figures also show closures as part of the Local Government Reorganisation programme.

It was not mandatory to supply school closure dates prior to January 2002 and therefore the figures for the years 1997 to 2002 may not be complete.

### Schools: Construction

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of school buildings approved by his Department were built to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method *(a)* very good and *(b)* excellent standard in each of the last five years; and what the construction cost of those buildings was. [172290]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not approve school projects. DCSF did however issue guidance on 'BREEAM Schools' ratings in the spring of 2005 including the expectation that all new and refurbished schools above a threshold size and value should be built to achieve a 'BREEAM Schools' rating of very good or excellent. We consider this to be a challenging but achievable target in the majority of schools. We do not know if the school buildings certified to BREEAM Schools at the design and procurement stage have actually been built to the BREEAM standards 'Very Good' or 'Excellent' as they have not undergone a post construction review. We do however know the numbers of ratings that have been achieved at the design and procurement stage.

'BREEAM Schools' was introduced by the Building Research Establishment in October 2004. No schools were registered for assessment before 1 April 2005. In the financial year 1 April 2005 to 30 March 2006, 126 schools were registered with BRE for a BREEAM assessment. From 1 April 2006 until 30 November 2006 a further 221 schools were registered for an assessment and by the end of this period four schools had been assessed. From 1 December 2006 until 6 December 2007 a further 254 schools were registered for an assessment and a further 18 schools were assessed. This brings the total number of schools that have been registered to 601 and the number assessed to 22. The ratings achieved so far are broken down as follows:

| *Type of school* | *Number of pass ratings* | *Number of good ratings* | *Number of very good ratings* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Primary | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| Secondary | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Academy | 1 | 4 | 2 |

Some of the early schools may have been at an advanced stage of design when DCSF issued guidance in 2005 on the ratings expected and may also have suffered from a lack of experience of sustainable design. As designers get more experience of designing sustainable schools we expect to see a higher proportion of schools achieving the expected standard. There will always however be schools where site constraints mean that some of the BREEAM credits are unavailable making it very difficult and probably uneconomic to achieve a very high rating in these cases. It should be remembered that BREEAM credits are only given where designs exceed regulatory minimum standards as laid out in the building regulations and the like.

We will be monitoring the results as they come in for the 579 schools that have been registered for an assessment but for which the assessments have yet to be completed. We do not know the names or the construction costs of the schools.

### Schools: Crimes of Violence

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many assaults on school staff by pupils were recorded in each of the last three years. [169160]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the number of assaults on school staff is not collected centrally.

For information on the number of assaults on adults which resulted in exclusion from school, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 276W.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many incidences of violence have been reported in *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools in the past three years. [171034]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the number of reported incidents of violence is not collected centrally.

### Schools: English Language

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* primary schools there were where more than (i) 30 per cent., (ii) 50 per cent. and (iii) 70 per cent. of pupils spoke English as a second language in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by local authority. [169138]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is as follows, and has been placed in the Library.

*Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools: Number of Schools by Percentage of School Population whose First Language is Known or Believed to be other than English[1, 2, 3], by Local Authority Area, as at January 2007*

| | | *Number of Schools by Percentage of School Population whose First Language is Known or Believed to be other than English* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Primary* | | | | | *Secondary* | | | | |
| | | *Up to and including 30 per cent.* | *31 per cent. to 50 per cent.* | *51 per cent. to 70 per cent.* | *More than 70 per cent.* | *Total* | *Up to and including 30 per cent.* | *31 per cent. to 50 per cent.* | *51 per cent. to 70 per cent.* | *More than 70 per cent.* | *Total* |
| | England | 15,465 | 753 | 574 | 569 | 17,361 | 2,991 | 157 | 112 | 83 | 3,343 |

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| | | *Number of Schools by Percentage of School Population whose First Language is Known or Believed to be other than English* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Primary* | | | | | *Secondary* | | | | |
| | | *Up to and including 30 per cent.* | *31 per cent. to 50 per cent.* | *51 per cent. to 70 per cent.* | *More than 70 per cent.* | *Total* | *Up to and including 30 per cent.* | *31 per cent. to 50 per cent.* | *51 per cent. to 70 per cent.* | *More than 70 per cent.* | *Total* |
| 201 | City of London | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 202 | Camden | 4 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 41 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 203 | Greenwich | 31 | 20 | 12 | 1 | 64 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| 204 | Hackney | 6 | 14 | 30 | 3 | 53 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| 205 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 8 | 14 | 12 | 1 | 35 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| 206 | Islington | 12 | 19 | 11 | 3 | 45 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| 207 | Kensington and Chelsea | 2 | 8 | 13 | 3 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| 208 | Lambeth | 14 | 19 | 22 | 5 | 60 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 10 |
| 209 | Lewisham | 39 | 20 | 6 | 4 | 69 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| 210 | Southwark | 19 | 32 | 14 | 6 | 71 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 10 |
| 211 | Tower Hamlets | 6 | 10 | 8 | 45 | 69 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 15 |
| 212 | Wandsworth | 19 | 22 | 13 | 2 | 56 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 213 | Westminster | 1 | 8 | 11 | 20 | 40 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 301 | Barking and Dagenham | 33 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 49 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 302 | Barnet | 32 | 30 | 18 | 7 | 87 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 19 |
| 303 | Bexley | 54 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| 304 | Brent | 8 | 11 | 22 | 18 | 59 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 13 |
| 305 | Bromley | 75 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 306 | Croydon | 60 | 24 | 7 | 0 | 91 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 21 |
| 307 | Ealing | 13 | 11 | 23 | 17 | 64 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 308 | Enfield | 26 | 18 | 20 | 2 | 66 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 17 |
| 309 | Haringey | 15 | 10 | 25 | 13 | 63 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| 310 | Harrow | 9 | 15 | 21 | 9 | 54 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 10 |
| 311 | Havering | 65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 312 | Hillingdon | 47 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 65 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 16 |
| 313 | Hounslow | 14 | 21 | 7 | 18 | 60 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 14 |
| 314 | Kingston upon Thames | 24 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 36 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 315 | Merton | 21 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 43 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 316 | Newham | 0 | 7 | 28 | 31 | 66 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 15 |
| 317 | Redbridge | 14 | 14 | 7 | 15 | 50 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 17 |
| 318 | Richmond upon Thames | 36 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 319 | Sutton | 40 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 320 | Waltham Forest | 18 | 14 | 21 | 4 | 57 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 16 |
| 330 | Birmingham | 193 | 29 | 19 | 58 | 299 | 43 | 10 | 9 | 14 | 76 |
| 331 | Coventry | 65 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 85 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 19 |
| 332 | Dudley | 72 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 78 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| 333 | Sandwell | 66 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 96 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 17 |
| 334 | Solihull | 67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| 335 | Walsall | 66 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 86 | 14 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| 336 | Wolverhampton | 64 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 80 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 18 |
| 340 | Knowsley | 55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 341 | Liverpool | 127 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 135 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| 342 | St. Helens | 54 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 343 | Sefton | 78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 78 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| 344 | Wirral | 98 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 98 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| 350 | Bolton | 75 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 98 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| 351 | Bury | 57 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 63 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 352 | Manchester | 93 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 133 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 22 |
| 353 | Oldham | 70 | 4 | 2 | 18 | 94 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 15 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Primary* | | | | | *Secondary* | | | | |
| | | *Up to and including 30 per cent.* | *31 per cent. to 50 per cent.* | *51 per cent. to 70 per cent.* | *More than 70 per cent.* | *Total* | *Up to and including 30 per cent.* | *31 per cent. to 50 per cent.* | *51 per cent. to 70 per cent.* | *More than 70 per cent.* | *Total* |
| 354 | Rochdale | 55 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 71 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 14 |
| 355 | Salford | 79 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 83 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 356 | Stockport | 90 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 92 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 357 | Tameside | 70 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 75 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 358 | Trafford | 68 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 72 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 359 | Wigan | 104 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 105 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| 370 | Barnsley | 81 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 82 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| 371 | Doncaster | 102 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 103 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| 372 | Rotherham | 98 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 103 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| 373 | Sheffield | 118 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 136 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| 380 | Bradford | 98 | 14 | 9 | 37 | 158 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 28 |
| 381 | Calderdale | 78 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 85 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| 382 | Kirklees | 122 | 4 | 5 | 20 | 151 | 26 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 32 |
| 383 | Leeds | 196 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 222 | 35 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 38 |
| 384 | Wakefield | 120 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 124 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 390 | Gateshead | 72 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 73 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 391 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 66 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 72 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 392 | North Tyneside | 56 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| 393 | South Tyneside | 49 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| 394 | Sunderland | 81 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 83 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 420 | Isles of Scilly | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 800 | Bath and North East Somerset | 63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| 801 | Bristol, City of | 99 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 111 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 802 | North Somerset | 66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 803 | South Gloucestershire | 96 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 96 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| 805 | Hartlepool | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 806 | Middlesbrough | 39 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 42 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 807 | Redcar and Cleveland | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| 808 | Stockton-on-Tees | 60 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 62 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 810 | Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 69 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 71 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| 811 | East Riding of Yorkshire | 132 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 132 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 812 | North East Lincolnshire | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| 813 | North Lincolnshire | 63 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 66 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 325 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 326 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 47 |
| 816 | York | 54 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 139 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 146 | 53 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 56 |
| 821 | Luton | 33 | 7 | 2 | 12 | 54 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 12 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 169 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 184 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 34 |
| 826 | Milton Keynes | 77 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 358 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 358 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 47 |
| 831 | Derby | 67 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 78 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| 835 | Dorset | 136 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 136 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 |
| 836 | Poole | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 837 | Bournemouth | 26 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Primary* | | | | | *Secondary* | | | | |
| | | *Up to and including 30 per cent.* | *31 per cent. to 50 per cent.* | *51 per cent. to 70 per cent.* | *More than 70 per cent.* | *Total* | *Up to and including 30 per cent.* | *31 per cent. to 50 per cent.* | *51 per cent. to 70 per cent.* | *More than 70 per cent.* | *Total* |
| 840 | Durham | 236 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 236 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| 841 | Darlington | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 155 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 156 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| 846 | Brighton and Hove | 55 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 430 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 430 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 71 |
| 851 | Portsmouth | 52 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 852 | Southampton | 52 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 61 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 218 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 225 | 51 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| 856 | Leicester | 44 | 13 | 2 | 25 | 84 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 16 |
| 857 | Rutland | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 295 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 301 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68 |
| 861 | Stoke-on-Trent | 63 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 71 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 208 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 208 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| 866 | Swindon | 65 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 67 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 867 | Bracknell Forest | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 868 | Windsor and Maidenhead | 41 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 45 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| 869 | West Berkshire | 66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 870 | Reading | 27 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 37 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 871 | Slough | 10 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 27 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| 872 | Wokingham | 51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire | 198 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 201 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| 874 | Peterborough | 46 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 58 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 14 |
| 875 | Cheshire | 275 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 275 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 43 |
| 876 | Hafton | 52 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 877 | Warrington | 71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 71 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| 878 | Devon | 318 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 318 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| 879 | Plymouth | 76 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 76 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| 880 | Torbay | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 881 | Essex | 472 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 473 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 |
| 882 | Southend-on-Sea | 35 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| 883 | Thurrock | 42 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 884 | Herefordshire | 82 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 885 | Worcestershire | 185 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 189 | 57 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 |
| 886 | Kent | 461 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 466 | 102 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 103 |
| 887 | Medway | 85 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| 888 | Lancashire | 454 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 486 | 80 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 85 |
| 889 | Blackburn with Darwen | 37 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 56 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| 890 | Blackpool | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire | 292 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 292 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 47 |
| 892 | Nottingham | 71 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 92 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| 893 | Shropshire | 142 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 142 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| 894 | Telford and Wrekin | 56 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 57 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 237 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 238 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 279 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 279 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 249 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 250 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 394 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 407 | 81 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 82 |
| 921 | Isle of Wight | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 285 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 285 | 63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 384 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 384 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 259 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 265 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 137 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 138 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 58 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Primary* | | | | | *Secondary* | | | | |
| | | *Up to and including 30 per cent* | *31 per cent to 50 per cent* | *51 per cent to 70 per cent* | *More than 70 per cent* | *Total* | *Up to and including 30 per cent* | *31 per cent to 50 per cent* | *51 per cent to 70 per cent* | *More than 70 per cent* | *Total* |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 224 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 233 | 33 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 34 |
| 933 | Somerset | 222 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 223 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 255 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 256 | 78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 78 |
| 936 | Surrey | 307 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 314 | 52 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 53 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 193 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 196 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 236 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 240 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 |

n/a = Not applicable, no schools of this type. [1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Excludes city technology colleges and academies. [2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above are classified according to their first language. This analysis is based on percentages rounded to the nearest whole number. [3] Excludes dually registered pupils. *Source:* School Census.

## Schools: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the reasons were for the amount allocated to Herefordshire for the school funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [170962]

(2) when he decided the school funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11; what consideration he gave to rural factors; what rural factors he takes into account; and if he will make a statement. [170963]

**Jim Knight:** Herefordshire local authority will receive a basic increase per pupil in their allocation of dedicated schools grant (DSG) of 3.1 per cent. for 2008-09, and 2.9 per cent. for 2009-10 and 2010-11, together with funding for the following ministerial priorities: personalised learning and SEN; and bringing the authority up to the level of the funding formula in 2005-06. This results in increases of 4.7 per cent. 3.9 per cent. and 4.5 per cent. per pupil, and an above average increase of 13.6 per cent. for the three year period as a whole. Further details of the calculation of Herefordshire's DSG allocations can be found at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12222

The starting point for the calculation of Herefordshire's 2008-09 DSG allocation is its DSG guaranteed unit of funding per pupil, which in turn depends on the amount the authority budgeted to spend in 2005-06. This was closely related to the schools formula spending share (FSS) calculation, which took account of the needs of rural authorities through an addition for pupils in primary schools: this recognised the additional costs faced by rural authorities in keeping open more small primary schools than other authorities.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much deprivation-related school funding was *(a)* allocated by his Department and *(b)* passed on by local authorities in each local authority area in the latest year for which information is available. [172101]

**Jim Knight:** The following table sets out the amount of deprivation funding in each local authority's indicative allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant in percentage terms for 2007-08. We have asked all local authorities to set out how much of this funding they currently pass on to schools through factors for social deprivation in their funding formulae for schools, and we are currently quality assuring their responses: we expect to publish this information in the new year.

| *Local authority* | *Percentage of DSG funding for deprivation in 2007-08* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 13.6 |
| Barnet | 8.3 |
| Barnsley | 12.8 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 7.1 |
| Bedfordshire | 7.1 |
| Bexley | 8.8 |
| Birmingham | 14.4 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 13.0 |
| Blackpool | 13.7 |
| Bolton | 11.8 |
| Bournemouth | 10.3 |
| Bracknell Forest | 6.0 |
| Bradford | 13.0 |
| Brent | 12.4 |
| Brighton and Hove | 11.1 |
| Bristol, City of | 12.1 |
| Bromley | 7.5 |
| Buckinghamshire | 5.5 |
| Bury | 9.6 |
| Calderdale | 11.2 |
| Cambridgeshire | 6.2 |
| Camden | 13.4 |
| Cheshire | 7.6 |
| City of London | 6.7 |
| Cornwall | 10.3 |
| Coventry | 11.5 |
| Croydon | 10.5 |
| Cumbria | 9.0 |
| Darlington | 11.6 |
| Derby | 12.2 |
| Derbyshire | 8.8 |
| Devon | 8.5 |
| Doncaster | 12.4 |

| *Local authority* | *Percentage of DSG funding for deprivation in 2007-08* |
|---|---|
| Dorset | 7.0 |
| Dudley | 10.4 |
| Durham | 11.7 |
| Ealing | 11.3 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 7.7 |
| East Sussex | 8.7 |
| Enfield | 11.7 |
| Essex | 7.9 |
| Gateshead | 12.9 |
| Gloucestershire | 7.3 |
| Greenwich | 14.2 |
| Hackney | 16.0 |
| Halton | 14.3 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 13.1 |
| Hampshire | 6.5 |
| Haringey | 15.7 |
| Harrow | 8.1 |
| Hartlepool | 14.1 |
| Havering | 8.2 |
| Herefordshire | 7.7 |
| Hertfordshire | 6.5 |
| Hillingdon | 9.4 |
| Hounslow | 11.3 |
| Isle of Wight | 10.9 |
| Islington | 17.1 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 8.2 |
| Kent | 8.7 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 15.7 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 6.2 |
| Kirklees | 10.9 |
| Knowsley | 17.2 |
| Lambeth | 14.6 |
| Lancashire | 10.0 |
| Leeds | 10.7 |
| Leicester | 14.0 |
| Leicestershire | 6.3 |
| Lewisham | 13.5 |
| Lincolnshire | 8.7 |
| Liverpool | 17.5 |
| Luton | 11.7 |
| Manchester | 17.5 |
| Medway | 9.7 |
| Merton | 8.6 |
| Middlesbrough | 15.4 |
| Milton Keynes | 8.9 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 14.3 |
| Newham | 16.1 |
| Norfolk | 9.1 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 12.6 |
| North Lincolnshire | 10.2 |
| North Somerset | 7.2 |
| North Tyneside | 11.7 |
| North Yorkshire | 6.7 |
| Northamptonshire | 8.1 |
| Northumberland | 9.6 |
| Nottingham | 16.7 |
| Nottinghamshire | 9.3 |
| Oldham | 12.7 |
| Oxfordshire | 6.2 |
| Peterborough | 12.2 |
| Plymouth | 12.1 |
| Poole | 8.6 |
| Portsmouth | 11.2 |
| Reading | 9.8 |
| Redbridge | 9.1 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 13.1 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 5.2 |
| Rochdale | 13.0 |
| Rotherham | 12.1 |
| Rutland | 6.2 |
| Salford | 14.2 |
| Sandwell | 14.2 |
| Sefton | 11.3 |
| Sheffield | 12.0 |
| Shropshire | 7.0 |
| Slough | 10.2 |
| Solihull | 7.8 |
| Somerset | 7.7 |
| South Gloucestershire | 6.6 |
| South Tyneside | 14.2 |
| Southampton | 12.3 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 11.2 |
| Southwark | 15.0 |
| St. Helens | 12.1 |
| Staffordshire | 8.0 |
| Stockport | 8.5 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 11.6 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 14.0 |
| Suffolk | 7.9 |
| Sunderland | 13.4 |
| Surrey | 5.6 |
| Sutton | 7.5 |
| Swindon | 8.3 |
| Tameside | 11.8 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 11.5 |
| Thurrock | 9.9 |
| Torbay | 11.8 |
| Tower Hamlets | 19.0 |
| Trafford | 9.1 |
| Wakefield | 11.2 |
| Walsall | 12.6 |
| Waltham Forest | 13.3 |
| Wandsworth | 11.4 |
| Warrington | 8.4 |
| Warwickshire | 7.1 |
| West Berkshire | 6.3 |
| West Sussex | 6.9 |
| Westminster | 11.8 |
| Wigan | 10.4 |
| Wiltshire | 6.7 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 4.8 |
| Wirral | 13.1 |
| Wokingham | 4.8 |
| Wolverhampton | 13.7 |
| Worcestershire | 7.7 |
| York | 8.4 |

## Schools: Standards

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been placed in special measures more than once since 1997. [171033]

**Jim Knight:** Between 1 September 1997 and 3 December 2007, 51 schools have been placed in special measures more than once following an inspection by Ofsted. This number represents 2.9 per cent. of the total number of schools placed in the special measures category during this period. 11 of the 51 schools have now closed.

## Secondary Education: Standards

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils at Key Stage 4 gained *(a)* no qualifications and *(b)* no GCSEs in 2007. [169141]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is published in table 1 and table 8 of the Statistical First Release "GCSE and equivalent results in England 2006/07 (provisional)" which is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000754/index.shtml

The percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 who gained no qualifications was 0.9 per cent.

The percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 who did not gain at least a grade G in any GCSE subject was 3 per cent.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the total number of pupils at Key Stage 4 who gained no qualifications in the latest period for which figures are available were eligible for free school meals. [169144]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is published in table 8 of the Statistical First Release "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07" which is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

The percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 who were eligible for free school meals who achieved no qualifications (i.e. did not achieve the equivalent of a grade G at GCSE in any subject in 2006/07) was 5.4 per cent., with 94.6 per cent. achieving the equivalent of at least one pass. The corresponding percentage of pupils who were not eligible for free school meals was 1.9 per cent., with 98.1 per cent. achieving the equivalent of at least one pass.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained mainstream schools there were in which pupils at Key Stage 4 achieved no qualifications in the latest period for which figures are available. [169145]

**Jim Knight:** 2007 data are not yet published. The data will be published in January and then placed in the House of Commons Library where the data for previous years can already be found.

## Special Educational Needs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the average time to statement a child in each local authority area. [169839]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not made any estimate of average time taken to conduct a statutory assessment and prepare a statement for a child with special educational needs (SEN).

The Audit Commission collect and publish information on the performance of local authorities against Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs). BVPI 43 (a) and (b) measure the percentage of draft SEN statements prepared within the statutory 18 weeks and issued by the authority in a financial year. Guidance on these indicators and published data is available from the Audit Commission's website.

From April 2008, we plan to replace BVPI 43 with a national indicator as part of the national indicator set, on which the Department for Communities and Local Government are currently consulting. The indicator will look at the percentage of statements finalised within 26 weeks.

## Specialist Schools and Academies Trust National Conference

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons his speech to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust National Conference was deferred from 28 November to 29 November; and if he will make a statement. [172176]

**Ed Balls:** I moved my speech at the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust National Conference from 28 November to 29 November due to urgent parliamentary business.

## Studio Schools

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has commissioned into studio schools. [169132]

**Jim Knight:** The former Department for Education and Skills' (DFES) Innovation Unit provided funding to the Young Foundation to develop its Studio Schools concept as follows:

*DFES Innovation Unit*

2006-07—£12,000 (Studio Schools concept)

*The IU Ltd.*

2006-07—£25,000 (Phase II of the Studio Schools concept)

2007-08—£25,000 (Phase III of the Studio Schools project)

2007-08—£60,000 pending as field trial grant

In September 2007 a national trial of the Studio Schools concept commenced at Barnfield College, Luton (linked with Barnfield West Academy) where 28 students will be following a Studio Schools-designed curriculum. This pilot is run by the Innovation Unit and the Young Foundation. It will run for a year and involve 90 students. Another short pilot is planned for Newham over summer next year (2008) to give 60 students a six week studio school experience.

The lessons from these pilots will be used by the Young Foundation and the Innovation Unit to inform the development of other studio schools.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is exploring how Studio Schools might link with the Academies programme. To inform this work

DCSF has engaged consultants to look at the current Studio School pilot in Luton and to discuss the concept with the Young Foundation and other local authorities which have expressed an interest.

### Teachers: Labour Turnover

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many head teachers left the profession in each year between 1997 and 2007. [169137]

**Jim Knight:** Information on the number of teachers leaving service is not available broken down by grade including head teachers.

### Teaching: Standards

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to increase standards of teaching in the West Midlands. [167897]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: Standards of teaching and learning in primary and secondary schools have risen substantially since 1997. This is as a result of a number of factors, including challenge and support through the Primary and Secondary National Strategies. They provide; continuing professional development to primary and secondary schools to support them in raising standards in teaching; support better use of pupil performance data and challenge schools and local authorities to set ambitious targets for their pupils. In 2007-08 funding of £45 million was provided for the West Midlands in 2007-08 to support improvement programmes in teaching and learning with specific focus on core subjects through the National Strategies.

Earlier this year, the Government announced that the Black Country—which includes Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton—had been chosen as one of the regions to benefit from the new City Challenge programme. This programme will be formally launched in April 2008, and the region will receive about £28 million over the next three years to support around 190,000 pupils in those local authorities.

The main objectives of the programme are:

A sharp drop in underperforming schools, particularly focusing on English and Maths

More outstanding schools

Significant improvements in educational outcomes for disadvantaged children.

### Youth Unemployment and Training Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 19 year old (i) women and (ii) men were receiving education or training but were not in employment in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [169829]

**Jim Knight:** The Department's estimates of the number and proportion of young people in education, employment or training cannot be disaggregated to regional or local authority level. However, it is possible to produce estimates of the number and proportion of 16 to 19-year-olds[1] in education or training but not in employment by local authority using the Annual Population Survey (APS), formerly the Local Labour Force Survey (LLFS). The estimates for London boroughs are shown in the following table. It is not possible to break down the estimates by gender or single age because of insufficient sample sizes. Figures are only available since 2001/02.

As with all survey estimates, the estimates from the APS and LLFS are subject to sampling error. Estimates from the APS and LLFS will not be directly comparable to the Department's national participation estimates, which are available at the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

*Estimates of the number and proportion of young people aged 16 to 19 in education or training but not in employment by local authority*[1]

| | *LLFS 2001/02* | | *LLFS 2002/03* | | *LLFS 2003/04* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 1,700 | 18 | 2,400 | 27 | 1,600 | 23 |
| Barnet | 4,900 | 44 | 5,700 | 46 | 7,800 | 45 |
| Bexley | 3,000 | 28 | 4,300 | 31 | 3,300 | 27 |
| Brent | 7,900 | 48 | 8,000 | 57 | 6,500 | 47 |
| Bromley | 3,700 | 30 | 5,100 | 47 | 3,400 | 30 |
| Camden | 3,800 | 45 | 4,500 | 55 | 3,500 | 47 |
| Croydon | 4,600 | 33 | 4,400 | 26 | 4,800 | 26 |
| Ealing | 6,100 | 52 | 10,000 | 57 | 7,800 | 62 |
| Enfield | 5,300 | 48 | 3,600 | 33 | 6,000 | 42 |
| Greenwich | 3,700 | 36 | 3,300 | 35 | 4,200 | 37 |
| Hackney | 2,600 | 35 | 6,300 | 69 | 5,400 | 58 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 2,200 | 40 | 3,200 | 59 | 3,200 | 46 |
| Haringey | 6,000 | 59 | 5,600 | 46 | 5,400 | 57 |
| Harrow | 5,900 | 56 | 5,900 | 50 | 5,100 | 45 |
| Havering | 2,900 | 33 | 3,300 | 25 | 3,100 | 21 |
| Hillingdon | 2,600 | 22 | 3,900 | 35 | 4,400 | 43 |
| Hounslow | 4,400 | 32 | 5,000 | 45 | 5,000 | 44 |
| Islington | 2,900 | 40 | 3,800 | 53 | 6,000 | 57 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 2,900 | 53 | 5,000 | 66 | 4,500 | 57 |

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[1] Estimates are for people of academic age 16 to 19.

*Estimates of the number and proportion of young people aged 16 to 19 in education or training but not in employment by local authority*[1]

| | LLFS 2001/02 | | LLFS 2002/03 | | LLFS 2003/04 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Kingston upon Thames | 2,400 | 41 | 2,900 | 35 | 3,000 | 36 |
| Lambeth | 6,700 | 49 | 5,300 | 41 | 5,200 | 49 |
| Lewisham | 4,000 | 43 | 4,000 | 47 | 3,000 | 31 |
| Merton | 3,600 | 40 | 1,100 | 16 | 1,600 | 28 |
| Newham | 8,200 | 51 | 6,500 | 43 | 9,000 | 58 |
| Redbridge | 4,900 | 42 | 5,100 | 45 | 5,900 | 53 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3,100 | 46 | 2,000 | 32 | 4,800 | 64 |
| Southwark | 5,100 | 49 | 5,300 | 46 | 7,100 | 50 |
| Sutton | 1,400 | 18 | 1,400 | 17 | 1,400 | 22 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6,200 | 49 | 7,400 | 57 | 4,800 | 53 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,000 | 31 | 3,600 | 37 | 4,900 | 54 |
| Wandsworth | 2,600 | 31 | 5,000 | 57 | 3,200 | 40 |
| Westminster[2] | 5,100 | 67 | 4,200 | 55 | 4,300 | 54 |

| | LLFS 2004/05 | | APS 2005 | | APS 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Barking and Dagenham | 4,000 | 47 | 4,000 | 47 | 3,600 | 39 |
| Barnet | 7,300 | 46 | 7,300 | 46 | 9,100 | 55 |
| Bexley | 4,500 | 41 | 4,500 | 41 | 3,900 | 32 |
| Brent | 7,800 | 71 | 7,800 | 71 | 7,700 | 76 |
| Bromley | 5,700 | 41 | 5,700 | 41 | 4,700 | 34 |
| Camden | 6,000 | 65 | 6,000 | 65 | 4,300 | 55 |
| Croydon | 8,400 | 47 | 8,400 | 47 | 7,500 | 48 |
| Ealing | 6,800 | 53 | 6,800 | 53 | 5,500 | 42 |
| Enfield | 7,500 | 53 | 7,500 | 53 | 6,300 | 46 |
| Greenwich | 3,400 | 32 | 3,400 | 32 | 3,900 | 31 |
| Hackney | 6,900 | 56 | 6,900 | 56 | 5,400 | 47 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3,500 | 48 | 3,500 | 48 | 4,800 | 74 |
| Haringey | 6,500 | 52 | 6,500 | 52 | 6,400 | 49 |
| Harrow | 4,900 | 46 | 4,900 | 46 | 4,800 | 58 |
| Havering | 3,800 | 36 | 3,800 | 36 | 4,300 | 37 |
| Hillingdon | 7,000 | 51 | 7,000 | 51 | 4,600 | 41 |
| Hounslow | 4,200 | 42 | 4,200 | 42 | 4,200 | 37 |
| Islington | 3,800 | 54 | 3,800 | 54 | 3,600 | 44 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4,100 | 86 | 4,100 | 86 | 3,400 | 68 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,100 | 41 | 3,100 | 41 | 2,800 | 42 |
| Lambeth | 3,600 | 46 | 3,600 | 46 | 4,000 | 36 |
| Lewisham | 4,300 | 48 | 4,300 | 48 | 6,900 | 64 |
| Merton | 2,400 | 42 | 2,400 | 42 | [illegible],200 | 43 |
| Newham | 7,400 | 58 | 7,400 | 58 | 7,100 | 60 |
| Redbridge | 9,200 | 66 | 9,200 | 66 | 7,100 | 50 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 4,000 | 53 | 4,000 | 53 | 3,700 | 53 |
| Southwark | 6,300 | 52 | 6,300 | 52 | 5,200 | 45 |
| Sutton | 2,000 | 23 | 2,000 | 23 | 2,800 | 30 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6,200 | 49 | 6,200 | 49 | 8,200 | 61 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,000 | 44 | 4,000 | 44 | 4,400 | 40 |
| Wandsworth | 6,600 | 50 | 6,600 | 50 | 4,900 | 55 |
| Westminster[2] | 4,500 | 59 | 4,500 | 59 | 8,200 | 78 |

[1] The percentage of 16 to 19-year-olds in employment or training but not in employment relates to academic age and is the average over a whole year.

[2] Data for City of London were included with Westminster in the APS and LLFS data.

### Vocational Education: Finance

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what central Government funding was for vocational higher education in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* England in each year since 1979. [166708]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible to answer the question in precisely the way it has been asked. Total Government funding for higher education has risen from around £500 million in 1979 to some £10 billion today, but successive Governments have not allocated funding on the basis of particular areas or types of provision, but largely on the basis of supply and demand. We are keen to raise both the demand for and supply of sustainable higher education opportunities in Cornwall and will continue to work with a range of partners to try to achieve this.

### Young People: Employment

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the provisions of the Education and Skills Bill if enacted on the employment of young people aged 16 to 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [171926]

**Jim Knight:** Under the policy to raise the participation age 16 and 17-year-olds will still be able to work, as long as they are in some form of education or training alongside this. There will be no effect on those currently in full-time employment, and there will never be a situation in which full time employees suddenly have to change to part time working—the first 16-year-olds to be affected are aged 10 now. Young people will know before entering employment at 16 that they have to be in learning part time. And they will not all necessarily work part time. Some will work full time and be provided will accredited training by their employer, and we will encourage employers to do this. Some may rearrange their working hours to attend part time training, rather than working fewer hours. The impact assessment for the Education and Skills Bill was published alongside the Bill on 29 November and copies have been placed in the Library of the House. The impact assessment sets out that the estimated foregone productivity cost to the economy of some young people being released for education or training for one day a week who might otherwise have worked full-time is estimated to be around £4.3 million per cohort.

### Young People: Unemployment

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people aged *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 17 in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK were not in education, employment or training in each year since 1997. [169841]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department publishes annual estimates of the number of 16 and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England. Figures for 1997 to 2006 are shown in the following table. Equivalent information for the UK is not available.

| | *16 year-olds NEET* | *17 year-olds NEET* |
|---|---:|---:|
| 1997 | 38,100 | 48,000 |
| 1998 | 44,900 | 49,800 |
| 1999 | 41,800 | 41,800 |
| 2000 | 42,400 | 43,700 |
| 2001 | 45,900 | 59,000 |
| 2002 | 49,800 | 55,000 |
| 2003 | 51,400 | 47,500 |
| 2004 | 51,000 | 59,000 |
| 2005 | 53,000 | 73,300 |
| 2006 (provisional) | 42,800 | 62,700 |

The 16 and 17-year-old population has risen from 1.217 million to 1.322 million during this period.

These estimates cannot be disaggregated to regional, local authority or constituency level. However, we can use information collected by the Connexions Service to estimate the number NEETs at local authority level since 2005, and regionally since 2003. This is shown in the following table.

| | *As at December each year* | *South Tyneside* | *North East* | *England* |
|---|---|---:|---:|---:|
| *Age 16* | 2003 | — | 2,370 | 31,170 |
| | 2004 | — | 2,250 | 29,680 |
| | 2005 | 120 | 2,190 | 29,650 |
| | 2006 | 100 | 1,960 | 27,160 |
| *Age 17* | 2003 | — | 4,090 | 53,340 |
| | 2004 | — | 4,030 | 49,530 |
| | 2005 | 260 | 4,140 | 52,190 |
| | 2006 | 200 | 3,710 | 47,200 |

Figures are not available for Jarrow constituency.

The DCSF and Connexions estimates are collected very differently. They use different definitions of age and NEET. As a result, Connexions estimates are lower, although the two sets of figures generally show a similar trend across a period of time.

## TREASURY

### Bank Services

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he or another Minister in his Department was first advised by the Bank of England of its view that the bank depositors' protection scheme needed improvement. [162908]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: The UK compensation scheme is significantly more generous than the minimum requirements set in EU legislation. The Tripartite Authorities, following an exercise involving the then Economic Secretary, the Governor of the Bank of England and the chairman of the Financial Services Authority in November 2006, came to a shared view that work should be undertaken on potential reforms to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. The Tripartite Authorities were regularly updated on the progress of this work throughout 2007, which culminated in the proposals contained in FSA document 'Financial Services Compensation Scheme—Funding Review (March 2007)' and the Tripartite discussion document 'Banking Reforms—Protecting Depositors: A discussion Paper (October 2007)'.

### Breast Cancer

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been diagnosed with breast cancer at the most recent date for which figures are available. [172091]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been diagnosed with breast cancer at the most recent date for which figures are available. [172091]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of malignant neoplasm of breast are for the year 2004, and are available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vink=8843&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

In England, *(a)* 36,939 women and *(b)* 272 men were diagnosed in 2004.

## Low-carbon vehicles: allowances for businesses

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the current system of offering enhanced capital allowances to enable businesses to write-down the capital costs of low-carbon vehicles during the first year of ownership to cover scooters. [172577]

**Angela Eagle:** The 100 per cent. first year allowance (FYA) for expenditure on cars with low carbon dioxide emissions expires next March.

As announced at the 2007 pre-Budget report, the Government are currently considering options for the taxation of business cars and there will be further announcements at Budget 2008.

## Cancer: Death

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the death rates from cancer in under 75-year-olds were in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each year since 2000. [172582]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the death rates from cancer in under 75 year olds were in (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority area, and (c) each primary care trust area in each year since 2000. (172582)

Mortality rates for the current NHS organisations in England are available from 2002 onwards. The attached table provides the age-standardised mortality rate from all cancers for persons under 75 years old, in (a) England, (b) strategic health authorities and (c) primary care organisations, from 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

*Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate from cancer1.2, all persons aged under 75 years, in England, strategic health authorities and primary care organisations[3], 2002-06[4]*

| | | | | | *Rate per 100,000 (persons)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Area* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| England | 125 | 121 | 119 | 117 | 116 |
| | | | | | |
| North-east | 145 | 137 | 138 | 134 | 136 |
| County Durham | 136 | 142 | 136 | 129 | 134 |
| Darlington | 141 | 119 | 133 | 122 | 125 |
| Gateshead | 152 | 133 | 134 | 143 | 137 |
| Hartlepool | 161 | 153 | 161 | 148 | 157 |
| Middlesbrough | 167 | 152 | 150 | 143 | 154 |
| Newcastle | 157 | 143 | 140 | 151 | 145 |
| North Tees | 148 | 142 | 145 | 129 | 141 |
| North Tyneside | 156 | 136 | 150 | 124 | 132 |
| Northumberland | 122 | 119 | 125 | 115 | 121 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 140 | 127 | 137 | 144 | 133 |
| South Tyneside | 162 | 150 | 152 | 148 | 136 |
| Sunderland Teaching | 142 | 140 | 131 | 138 | 139 |
| | | | | | |
| North-west | 139 | 133 | 132 | 133 | 128 |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan | 133 | 133 | 138 | 118 | 126 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 155 | 151 | 145 | 131 | 129 |
| Blackpool | 149 | 134 | 152 | 148 | 141 |
| Bolton | 132 | 138 | 123 | 135 | 121 |
| Bury | 128 | 128 | 145 | 128 | 130 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire | 119 | 110 | 112 | 114 | 106 |
| Central Lancashire | 130 | 116 | 116 | 129 | 113 |
| Cumbria | 122 | 117 | 123 | 120 | 116 |
| East Lancashire | 136 | 127 | 124 | 122 | 116 |
| Halton and St. Helens | 138 | 141 | 141 | 155 | 131 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale | 146 | 133 | 155 | 144 | 119 |
| Knowsley | 166 | 181 | 161 | 139 | 167 |
| Liverpool | 162 | 163 | 162 | 175 | 161 |
| Manchester | 173 | 163 | 165 | 165 | 167 |
| North Lancashire | 127 | 120 | 120 | 128 | 119 |
| Oldham | 161 | 144 | 133 | 135 | 133 |
| Salford | 161 | 165 | 154 | 154 | 149 |
| Sefton | 134 | 130 | 134 | 130 | 118 |
| Stockport | 121 | 125 | 119 | 124 | 118 |
| Tameside and Glossop | 152 | 149 | 121 | 140 | 136 |
| Trafford | 128 | 121 | 121 | 125 | 129 |
| Warrington | 112 | 128 | 119 | 114 | 119 |
| Western Cheshire | 141 | 124 | 119 | 116 | 125 |
| Wirral | 153 | 135 | 131 | 125 | 136 |
| | | | | | |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 133 | 128 | 125 | 121 | 121 |
| Barnsley | 146 | 143 | 145 | 133 | 134 |
| Bradford and Airedale | 135 | 124 | 138 | 121 | 118 |
| Calderdale | 137 | 129 | 120 | 116 | 114 |
| Doncaster | 149 | 145 | 136 | 131 | 129 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 114 | 116 | 110 | 116 | 108 |
| Hull | 155 | 142 | 154 | 137 | 150 |
| Leeds | 135 | 133 | 124 | 121 | 122 |
| North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus | 135 | 141 | 126 | 133 | 136 |
| North Lincolnshire | 132 | 112 | 119 | 111 | 121 |
| North Yorkshire and York | 113 | 113 | 111 | 108 | 105 |
| Rotherham | 145 | 146 | 139 | 115 | 128 |
| Sheffield | 135 | 124 | 124 | 127 | 117 |
| Wakefield District | 146 | 132 | 123 | 130 | 131 |

*Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate from cancer[1,2], all persons aged under 75 years, in England, strategic health authorities and primary care organisations[3], 2002-06[4]*

| | Rate per 100,000 (persons) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Area* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| East midlands | 122 | 121 | 117 | 115 | 113 |
| Bassetlaw | 123 | 151 | 132 | 111 | 134 |
| Derby City | 121 | 119 | 122 | 108 | 115 |
| Derbyshire County | 123 | 128 | 113 | 116 | 113 |
| Leicester City | 125 | 118 | 121 | 119 | 111 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland | 100 | 109 | 109 | 106 | 101 |
| Lincolnshire | 119 | 117 | 114 | 109 | 117 |
| Northamptonshire | 128 | 114 | 119 | 122 | 114 |
| Nottingham City | 150 | 153 | 153 | 135 | 143 |
| Nottinghamshire County | 126 | 121 | 114 | 120 | 110 |
| West midlands | 126 | 124 | 119 | 119 | 119 |
| Birmingham East and North | 147 | 131 | 125 | 128 | 128 |
| Coventry Teaching | 132 | 126 | 126 | 136 | 122 |
| Dudley | 134 | 128 | 118 | 117 | 116 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching | 134 | 128 | 128 | 137 | 127 |
| Herefordshire | 109 | 106 | 101 | 106 | 102 |
| North Staffordshire | 128 | 114 | 118 | 109 | 117 |
| Sandwell | 147 | 147 | 140 | 126 | 142 |
| Shropshire County | 115 | 107 | 110 | 103 | 111 |
| Solihull Care Trust | 120 | 112 | 119 | 104 | 116 |
| South Birmingham | 132 | 132 | 127 | 131 | 120 |
| South Staffordshire | 119 | 118 | 117 | 115 | 108 |
| Stoke on Trent | 136 | 155 | 152 | 136 | 135 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 109 | 129 | 124 | 123 | 125 |
| Walsall Teaching | 135 | 133 | 127 | 132 | 134 |
| Warwickshire | 115 | 117 | 97 | 117 | 113 |
| Wolverhampton City | 148 | 139 | 128 | 130 | 139 |
| Worcestershire | 109 | 112 | 111 | 108 | 108 |
| East of England | 114 | 114 | 111 | 108 | 106 |
| Bedfordshire | 114 | 108 | 118 | 110 | 107 |
| Cambridgeshire | 114 | 111 | 103 | 104 | 103 |
| East and North Hertfordshire | 118 | 116 | 115 | 102 | 105 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney | 107 | 115 | 106 | 116 | 115 |
| Luton | 112 | 117 | 116 | 132 | 103 |
| Mid Essex | 107 | 121 | 111 | 103 | 99 |
| Norfolk | 116 | 109 | 101 | 102 | 105 |
| North-east Essex | 112 | 114 | 107 | 114 | 105 |
| Peterborough | 123 | 117 | 114 | 129 | 107 |
| South-east Essex | 117 | 117 | 119 | 115 | 114 |
| South-west Essex | 133 | 124 | 121 | 111 | 124 |
| Suffolk | 109 | 114 | 110 | 105 | 94 |
| West Essex | 109 | 115 | 110 | 109 | 108 |
| West Hertfordshire | 113 | 107 | 117 | 108 | 107 |
| London | 124 | 119 | 117 | 114 | 113 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 154 | 148 | 126 | 142 | 142 |
| Barnet | 100 | 105 | 105 | 101 | 99 |
| Bexley | 115 | 112 | 109 | 112 | 117 |
| Brent Teaching | 119 | 108 | 100 | 89 | 102 |
| Bromley | 112 | 115 | 104 | 110 | 105 |
| Camden | 114 | 115 | 126 | 121 | 122 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 145 | 123 | 138 | 122 | 131 |
| Croydon | 120 | 109 | 125 | 113 | 109 |
| Ealing | 100 | 112 | 106 | 118 | 103 |
| Enfield | 113 | 122 | 109 | 116 | 100 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 137 | 138 | 135 | 146 | 133 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 152 | 142 | 129 | 117 | 106 |
| Haringey Teaching | 114 | 134 | 125 | 108 | 119 |
| Harrow | 105 | 100 | 102 | 103 | 100 |
| Havering | 127 | 111 | 110 | 125 | 115 |
| Hillingdon | 130 | 107 | 125 | 120 | 116 |
| Hounslow | 135 | 127 | 101 | 110 | 125 |
| Islington | 171 | 146 | 151 | 131 | 142 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 102 | 75 | 80 | 89 | 61 |
| Kingston | 123 | 114 | 99 | 99 | 110 |
| Lambeth | 145 | 133 | 128 | 137 | 127 |
| Lewisham | 136 | 141 | 132 | 144 | 124 |
| Newham | 130 | 124 | 142 | 118 | 133 |
| Redbridge | 130 | 109 | 105 | 98 | 102 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | 111 | 117 | 135 | 101 | 117 |
| Southwark | 146 | 129 | 125 | 121 | 126 |
| Sutton and Merton | 117 | 126 | 105 | 107 | 104 |
| Tower Hamlets | 148 | 148 | 165 | 130 | 150 |
| Waltham Forest | 137 | 126 | 114 | 114 | 126 |
| Wandsworth | 130 | 110 | 130 | 122 | 121 |
| Westminster | 110 | 116 | 109 | 97 | 84 |
| South-east coast | 114 | 115 | 113 | 109 | 110 |
| Brighton and Hove City | 117 | 119 | 123 | 129 | 135 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald | 108 | 109 | 124 | 103 | 104 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent | 128 | 125 | 122 | 116 | 118 |
| Hastings and Rother | 124 | 113 | 120 | 108 | 127 |
| Medway | 130 | 138 | 120 | 118 | 131 |
| Surrey | 102 | 104 | 102 | 101 | 102 |
| West Kent | 117 | 117 | 117 | 101 | 101 |
| West Sussex | 110 | 111 | 106 | 113 | 107 |
| South central | 117 | 112 | 111 | 109 | 108 |
| Berkshire East | 110 | 111 | 110 | 94 | 104 |
| Berkshire West | 105 | 109 | 111 | 104 | 102 |
| Buckinghamshire | 123 | 110 | 112 | 104 | 112 |
| Hampshire | 115 | 113 | 107 | 106 | 102 |
| Isle of Wight NHS | 110 | 117 | 116 | 107 | 114 |
| Milton Keynes | 132 | 118 | 143 | 124 | 105 |
| Oxfordshire | 109 | 97 | 102 | 112 | 103 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching | 125 | 140 | 117 | 138 | 143 |
| Southampton City | 146 | 134 | 118 | 131 | 134 |
| South-west | 117 | 113 | 109 | 108 | 107 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 109 | 103 | 107 | 113 | 100 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | 108 | 103 | 112 | 117 | 109 |
| Bristol | 142 | 126 | 137 | 120 | 125 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 123 | 108 | 111 | 109 | 111 |
| Devon | 118 | 116 | 108 | 107 | 106 |
| Dorset | 110 | 105 | 101 | 106 | 97 |
| Gloucestershire | 105 | 112 | 107 | 104 | 105 |

*Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate from cancer[1,2], all persons aged under 75 years, in England, strategic health authorities and primary care organisations[3], 2002-06[4]*

| | Rate per 100,000 (persons) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| North Somerset | 127 | 113 | 106 | 100 | 96 |
| North Staffordshire | 128 | 114 | 118 | 109 | 117 |
| Plymouth Teaching | 127 | 144 | 126 | 123 | 123 |
| Somerset | 110 | 110 | 108 | 108 | 103 |
| South Gloucestershire | 111 | 112 | 102 | 99 | 113 |
| Swindon | 117 | 115 | 101 | 120 | 126 |
| Torbay | 138 | 115 | 101 | 112 | 105 |
| Wiltshire | 115 | 108 | 100 | 97 | 104 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes COO to C97.

[2] Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007. The 152 primary care organisations include 148 primary care trusts (PCTs), and four care organisations (CO's).

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

### Capital Gains Tax

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 47W, on capital gains tax, if he will estimate the revenue implications of taxing capital gains at the same marginal rates as income tax, with indexation from April 2008. [171466]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* The revenue yield from taxing all capital gains at the income tax rates announced for 2008-09 with indexation allowance but without applying taper relief would be of the order of £3 billion a year by comparison with the current (2007-08) regime. This is a broad estimate that assumes continuation of the tax-free annual exempt amount and takes into account the likely taxpayer response to the change.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the capital gains tax (CGT) revenues received by the Exchequer from sales of residential properties in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the net effect on this CGT revenue stream of the proposed reforms to CGT announced in the October 2007 pre-Budget report. [172798]

**Jane Kennedy:** Capital gains tax paid depends on the taxpayer's total gains, losses, reliefs and marginal rate, so it is not possible to attribute amounts of tax to separate disposals. Statistics on the number of disposals, disposal value and gains made on assets disposed of in 2004-05 by type of asset, including residential property, are available in National Statistics table 14.4 on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/menu.htm

The 2007 pre-Budget report announced a reform of the capital gains tax regime for individuals. From 6 April 2008, all disposals that attract capital gains tax will do so at a rate of 18 per cent.

### Capital Gains Tax: Private Equity

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of proposed changes in capital gains tax on private equity firms. [172636]

**Jane Kennedy:** The 2007 pre-Budget report announced a reform of the capital gains tax regime for individuals. From 6 April 2008, all disposals that attract capital gains tax will do so at a rate of 18 per cent. Along with changes to address loopholes and anomalies in the residence and domicile rules, these changes will increase the fairness of the tax system including for individuals in the private equity industry.

### Child Benefit Office: Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in the IT department at the Child Benefit Office received bonuses in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how much was paid out in such bonuses in total. [168945]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The Child Benefit Office is one of a number of HMRC business units responsible for delivering child benefit. 18 HMRC staff work in IT support for child benefit IT systems. The director of Information Management Systems recognises exceptional performance through a recognition bonus scheme.

Due to the small size of the IT team that supports child benefit IT systems it may be possible to identify individuals from this information and consequently it is not appropriate to say whether and how many bonuses were paid during the last 12 month period for which figures are available.

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when HM Revenue and Customs was first informed by the National Audit Office of the non-arrival of information from the child benefit database despatched on 18 October; [167702]

(2) how many officials in his Department have had access to the child benefit database in 2007; and what action he has taken to reduce the numbers having such access. [167703]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* It would be inappropriate to comment on these issues as there is an on-going police investigation.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) officials had access to a full copy of HMRC's data on the payment of child benefits as at 18 October 2007; [167771]

(2) how many CD copies have been made of the full copy of HM Revenue and Customs' data on the payment of child benefit in the last 12 months. [167772]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* It would be inappropriate to comment on these issues as there is an ongoing police investigation.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to help alleviate concerns of child benefit recipients whose data was lost by HM Revenue and Customs on possible *(a)* identity fraud and *(b)* criminal use of bank or building society account details. [168651]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04. The Acting Chairman of HMRC has also written to all customers affected, reassuring them that the police continue to have no reason to believe that the data has found its way into the wrong hands and setting out the advice that my right hon. friend the Chancellor offered in his statement.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff work in the Child Benefit Office's IT department. [168909]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Child Benefit Office is one of a number of HMRC business units responsible for delivering child benefit. 18 HMRC staff work in IT support for Child Benefit IT systems.

### Child Benefit: Pregnant Women

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he received in favour of the introduction of child benefits in pregnancy before his 2006 pre-Budget speech; and if he will place copies in the Library. [172933]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Treasury received a wide number of representations before the 2006 pre-Budget report on tax and benefits issues, which formed part of the process of policy development for the 2006 pre-Budget report.

### Defence: Expenditure

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of total Government expenditure in the last financial year was spent on *(a)* defence and *(b)* conflict prevention and resolution. [172295]

**Andy Burnham:** Table 4.3 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2007 sets out total expenditure on services in real terms and the proportion spent on defence. Separately, section 2 of MOD's annual report and accounts 2006-07 sets out the spend in that year directly attributable to conflict prevention.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was budgeted by his Department in the last 12 months for ensuring the security of personal information. [168470]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available. The costs of information security are included in the overall costs of running HMRC.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his core Department spent on *(a)* staff salaries and *(b)* administrative costs in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [170348]

**Angela Eagle:** Details of salaries paid to staff in core Treasury in each year since 2003-04 are as follows:

| | *Salary paid (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 61,396,000 |
| 2004-05 | 60,878,000 |
| 2005-06 | 63,757,000 |
| 2006-07 | 64,354,000 |

Details of administrative costs spending can be found in Table 7.4 of the Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, HC 518. A copy of the document can be found at

hm-treasury.gov.uk.

### Departmental ICT

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the latest forecasted cost is of the delivery of the ASPIRE IT support project. [169318]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The current projected cost, before inflation, of the ASPIRE IT Services contract, which now runs until 2017, is £7.7 billion, £800 million less than the projected cost disclosed at PAC last year.

### Departmental Manpower

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of posts in his Department were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172262]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury Group publishes the progress against efficiency targets in its Spring Annual Report and Accounts and Autumn Performance Report. The 2007 Autumn Performance Report will be published shortly.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170225]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 217-18W.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the core Treasury's Strategic Reserve was spent on activities *(a)* not defined as and *(b)* not previously categorised as strategic reserve-funded activities in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [170345]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 702W.

### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue he received from taxation on fuel used by local authorities and by services contracted by local authorities in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170957]

**Angela Eagle:** Estimates are not available for the revenue received from taxation on fuel used by local authorities and by services contracted by local authorities. Registered traders pay the duty to HMRC and information on the customer is not recorded on the return.

VAT charged to local authorities, and with respect to services contracted out by them, is normally recoverable in full by the purchaser; and so does not represent net revenue receipts.

### Government Departments: Wastes

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what volume of waste was generated by each central Government Department over the last 12 months, as recorded by the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service database. [165550]

**Angela Eagle:** This data is not currently held within the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service database. It is planned to capture this information for the first time in 2008.

### HM Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-18, on HM Revenue and Customs, what representations he has received from banks requesting that he delay announcing the loss of personal data by HM Revenue and Customs. [168796]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04 and to his subsequent remarks to the House on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 306.

### HM Revenue and Customs: Delivery Services

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed by HM Revenue and Customs to monitor deliveries placed with mail carriers and at what cost to his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [169864]

**Jane Kennedy:** It would be inappropriate to comment on this as there is an ongoing police investigation.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling led by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list all mail carriers employed by HM Revenue and Customs to handle outgoing mail. [169939]

**Jane Kennedy:** The following companies handle outgoing mail for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC):

Royal Mail;
TNT UK Ltd.;
Lynx Express Ltd.;
The DX Group Ltd.; and
G4S Ltd.

### HM Revenue and Customs: Public Appointments

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the role is of the director of information technology at HM Revenue and Customs; what his salary is; how many staff there are in his team; and what responsibility he had for the systems in operation prior to the loss of child benefit data. [170011]

**Jane Kennedy:** The chief information officer (CIO) is the head of Information Management Solutions, the directorate that develops and runs the IT systems and solutions that help HMRC achieve its objectives.

The current CIO heads the 1,538 members of staff in the IMS directorate, the equivalent of 1,491 full-time posts. It would not be appropriate to provide details of his salary.

### Home Responsibilities Protection

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on retrospective applications for entitlement to home responsibilities protection in the tax years immediately after the scheme was introduced in April 1978; and if he will make a statement. [169390]

**Jane Kennedy:** Home responsibilities protection is provided automatically for people in receipt of child benefit, or income support with a carer's premium. In these cases, where a national insurance record does not fully reflect an individual's entitlement to home responsibilities protection there is no time limit to retrospective correction of the record.

For other groups with an entitlement to home responsibilities protection, in some cases a claim must be made within set time limits. However, retrospective applicants for home responsibilities protection for years between April 1978 and 5 April 2002 may be made at any time up to state pension age.

### Income Tax: Newcastle upon Tyne

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the receipts from a one pence rate of income tax in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [172585]

**Jane Kennedy:** The approximate tax liability from a one pence rate of income tax charged on the total income of taxpayers living in the metropolitan district of Newcastle upon Tyne can be estimated from the information on the number of taxpayers and their mean income provided in table 3.14 "Income and tax by borough district and unitary authority" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314.

Estimates are available for 2003-04 and 2004-05 and are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total number of income taxpayers in the City of Newcastle in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and how many of these were pensioners. [172586]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on the number of taxpayers in the metropolitan district of Newcastle upon Tyne can be found in table 3.14 "Income and tax by borough district and unitary authority" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314.

Estimates are available for 2003-04 and 2004-05 and are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes.

### Inheritance Tax

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated cost would be to the Exchequer for the tax year *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 of raising the individual inheritance tax allowance to £1,000,000 if (i) allowances remained transferable between spouses and civil partners as announced in the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and (ii) the system operated as it did prior to the changes announced in the 2007 Pre-Budget Report. [172529]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) on 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1200W.

### Office of Government Commerce

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solution's expenditure of the relocation of London-based posts to Liverpool in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165226]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury Group publishes progress against its headcount reduction and relocation targets in its Spring Annual Report and Accounts and Autumn Performance Report. The 2007 Autumn Performance Report will be published shortly.

### Pensioners: Income

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners aged between 60 and 64 have an annual income between £5,700 and £16,500; and if he will make a statement. [171522]

**Kitty Ussher:** In 2008-09, there will be an estimated 0.5 million pensioners aged between 60 and 64 with an annual income between £5,700 and £16,500.

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes 2004-05 and projected in line with PBR 2007 assumptions.

### Registration of Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what he expects the cost to the public funds to be of the General Register Office's Magpie project; what the timetable is for the implementation of the project; and if he will make a statement. [169523]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 December 2007:*

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the expected cost will be to the public funds of the General Register Office's Magpie project; what the timetable is for the implementation of the project; and if he will make a statement. (169523)

A revised business case for the MAGPIE project is still in preparation. Estimates of costs and timetables will be available when the business case has been finalised and approved.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public funds *(a)* has been and *(b)* is expected to be in total of the General Register Office's Dove project; and how much was originally budgeted for the cost of the project. [169524]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 December 2007:*

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the cost to the public funds *(a)* has been and *(b)* is expected to be in total of the General Register Office's Dove project; and how much was the original sum budgeted for the cost of the project. (169524)

Almost all of the costs of DOVE project are capitalised. To date, capital expenditure on the project is £8.1 million and total capital expenditure is currently projected to be £18.1 million. The capital cost of the project was estimated in the business case as £20 million.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the digitisation of records of births, marriages and deaths to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* made available to the public online; and if he will make a statement. [169525]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 December 2007:*

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking when the digitisation of records of births, marriages and deaths will be *(a)* completed and *(b)* made available to the public online: and if he will make a statement. (169525)

The current estimate is that the digitisation of records of births, marriages and deaths will be complete by August 2009. The date by which index data derived from the digitisation contract will be available for on-line access by the public will depend on the revised business case for the General Register Office's MAGPIE project, still in the course of preparation. Assuming the business case is approved and the necessary funding confirmed, it is hoped that the project can be completed by the end of 2009.

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when officials from HM Revenue and Customs last met representatives of the security industry. [168469]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC has frequent contact with a range of representatives of the security industry to discuss all aspects of security.

### Tax Evasion

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue lost to tax evasion in each of the last five years. [171839]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* There are no robust estimates of the revenue lost specifically to tax evasion for each of the last five years. However, HMRC have recently published two documents on tax losses alongside the 2007 pre-Budget report.

Measuring Indirect Tax Losses 2007 presents the latest annual update of HMRC's estimates of revenue losses for indirect taxes.

Developing Methodologies for Measuring Direct Tax Losses includes estimates of direct tax losses for individuals subject to income tax self assessment, small and medium-sized companies, and small and medium-sized employers.

While the estimates given in these documents include evasion they also encompass other causes of losses, including avoidance and error.

### Taxation: Domicil

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many non-domiciled individuals are estimated to have been resident in the UK for more than *(a)* seven, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 17 tax years; [162005]

(2) how many requests for domicile rulings were made to the Capital Taxes Office and its successor HM Revenue and Customs Inheritance Taxes in each tax year since 1979-80; how many of these people were non-UK resident at the time of the request; and what information is available on their current residence status; [162006]

(3) how many people indicated non-domicile status in a P86 form in each tax year since 1979-80; of these how many *(a)* did not also file a DOM 1 form in each year, *(b)* are no longer resident in the UK; and *(c)* submitted self-assessment returns for tax year 2005-06; [162007]

(4) how many people filed DOM 1 forms with HM Revenue and Customs in each tax year since 1979-80; how many of these people are no longer resident in the UK; and how many of them submitted self-assessment returns for tax year 2005-06; [162008]

(5) what his most recent estimate is of the number of UK residents who would be eligible to be taxed under the remittance basis as a result of non-domicile status; [162009]

(6) what estimate he has made of the number of people expected to be affected in the years 2008-09 to 2011-12 by the measures announced in the pre-Budget report to amend the current rules to remove flaws and anomalies that allow individuals using the remittance basis of taxation to sidestep UK tax, where it is due on foreign income and gains and who are assumed to complete self-assessment tax returns; [162010]

(7) what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue expected to be raised as a result of the removal of income tax personal allowances from people claiming the remittance basis in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; and how many people are expected to be affected in each year; [162153]

(8) what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue expected to be raised as a result of changes to the residence rules so that days of arrival in and departure from the UK will count towards establishing residence in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; and how many people are expected to be affected by these changes in each year; [162154]

(9) what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue expected to be raised through *(a)* payment of the £30,000 annual charge on non-domiciles and *(b)* payment of UK income tax and capital gains tax on unremitted income and gains as a result of individuals choosing not to claim the remittance basis who would have claimed it in the absence of the charge in each of the years from 2008-09 to 2011-12; [162155]

(10) how much revenue is estimated to be raised as a result of measures announced in the pre-Budget report to amend the current rules to remove flaws and anomalies that allow individuals using the remittance basis of taxation to sidestep UK tax, where it is due on foreign income and gains in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; how many people are expected to be affected in each year; and on what assumptions these figures are based; [162341]

(11) what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who will choose *(a)* to pay the full £30,000 annual charge on non-domiciles and *(b)* not to claim the remittance basis but would have claimed it in the absence of the charge in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12. [162342]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on the numbers affected by and the yield expected from the measures announced on residence and domicile at the recent PBR can be found in 'Paying a fairer share: a consultation on residence and domicile', published on 6 December.

No part of HMRC gives domicile rulings for inheritance tax purposes. Domicile is considered only as and when it is directly relevant in determining the scope of a charge to inheritance tax following an actual chargeable event. The requested information about residence is not available.

I regret that the information requested on forms P86 and DOM 1 is not available.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions he made in estimating the revenue raised from modernisation of residence and domicile taxation in table B4, page 164 of the pre-Budget report about *(a)* the number of non-domiciles who would pay the new £30,000 charge, *(b)* the gain from non-domiciles who choose to bring their tax affairs on-shore and *(c)* other factors for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [164230]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on the numbers affected by and the yield expected from the measures announced on residence and domicile at the recent PBR will be part of the consultation document published recently. The document includes a summary of the analysis held and answers a number of questions that have been asked in this area. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Taxation: Pensioners

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners aged between 60 and 64 who will have a greater tax liability as a result of the changes to age-related tax allowances introduced in the 2007 Budget; and if he will make a statement. [171520]

**Kitty Ussher:** Only taxpayers aged 65 and over receive age related tax allowances subject to an income taper.

For the overall effect of changes to net tax introduced in the 2007 Budget on taxpayers' liabilities, I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1266W-68W.

### Taxation: Sports

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what leisure activities are classed as sports for tax purposes by HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement; [172815]

(2) if he will seek to discuss the decision by HM Revenue and Customs not to recognise racing pigeons as a sport for tax purposes with the Royal Pigeon Racing Association. [172816]

**Jane Kennedy:** Sports clubs that meet certain criteria are able to register with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC). HMRC do not however decide which sports are eligible sports for the CASC scheme. Eligible sports are defined by Treasury Order, by reference to the Sports Councils' list of recognised activities. The list can be accessed at

www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/resource_ul.htm.

### VAT: Nicotine Patches

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with HM Revenue and Customs extending the lower rate of VAT to all products that are intended for use as smoking cessation aids. [172783]

**Jane Kennedy:** The 5 per cent. reduced VAT rate currently applies to all pharmaceutical products designed to help people to stop smoking tobacco. This is the widest reduced rate for smoking cessation aids possible under European VAT agreements.

### Video Games: Research

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 926W, on video games: research, for what reasons the information on HM Revenue and Customs research and development units for the computer games industry is not available; and what breakdown by industry sector and recipient can be provided of the allocation of £150 million by HMRC. [172605]

**Angela Eagle:** Information on claims for R&D tax credits for the computer games industry is not available because the data is broken down by industry sector using the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities (SIC), and the computer games industry is not identified as a separate sector in this classification.

No industry breakdown is available of the figure of £150 million, which relates only to the payable credit element of the R&D tax credit scheme. However, a breakdown is available for the National Statistics published on the total claims made for R&D tax credits and total support claimed. This shows that companies in the computer and related services sector accounted for over a fifth of the total 6,300 claims made for R&D tax credits in 2004-05, and a tenth of the £580 million of support in these 6,300 claims. Whilst many companies involved in the computer games industry may appear in this industry sector, some may have other classifications.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants who ceased to be entitled to tax credit by reason of working less than 16 hours a week have been informed that overpayments will be remitted; and what the value was of the remittances made to such tax credit claimants. [165090]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: An amount of £186 million was remitted in the 2006-07 accounts in respect of this issue. The relevant notes to the 2006-07 Trust Statement can be found on page 100 of the HMRC Accounts published at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-06-07-acc.pdf.

### Young People: Scotland

**David Mundell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many young people were not in education, employment or training in Scotland in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by Westminster constituency. [172414]

**Angela Eagle:** This is a devolved matter for the Scottish Executive.

## HEALTH

### Accident and Emergency Departments

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 10 most frequent causes of repeat visits to accident and emergency wards were in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate has been made of the avoidable costs which accrued from such visits. [170538]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on reasons for attendance at accident and emergency (A and E) departments is not routinely collected and therefore information is not available on causes of visits or repeat visits to A and E.

It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that they provide urgent and emergency care services that are responsive to people's needs.

### Air Ambulance Services

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many air ambulances were operating in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of their operating cost in that period; and how much of the cost was paid by the public purse; [170591]

(2) what the average annual staff cost was of an air ambulance in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the average annual *(a)* insurance and *(b)* running costs of an air ambulance. [170974]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department is not responsible for air ambulances, and does not routinely collect air ambulance data centrally. However, the Department has previously commissioned research into helicopter emergency ambulance services. The research undertaken estimated that there were 16 air ambulances operating across 14 organisations in England and Wales and that an the average annual operating costs of an individual air ambulance were around £0.8 million a year (based on data from 11 of the 14 organisations, ranging from 2000 to 2001-02). In addition, representatives from ambulance trusts and air ambulance charities are currently working together to seek to improve joint working practices and procedures and undertook a survey of air ambulance charities in August/September 2007 to which 14 air ambulance organisations responded. Those responses indicated that there were 24 helicopters and that the average expenditure per helicopter per annum was £0.8 million. Neither piece of work provided information on insurance costs.

Since 1 April 2002, the Department has made clear that it would normally expect the national health service to meet the cost of clinical staff on air ambulances, but the levels of such funding are not collected centrally. It is for NHS ambulance trusts to decide whether they provide any additional funding to the air ambulance charities.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were airlifted by air ambulances in the last 12 months for which figures were available. [170593]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not collected centrally.

### Ambulance Services: Shropshire

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that there is an appropriate number of West Midlands Ambulance Trust's ambulances in Shropshire to respond to emergency calls during the day and at night. [171486]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is for the West Midlands Ambulance Service to ensure appropriate provision of resources to meet local demand.

### Ambulance Services: Standards

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average response time was for *(a)* air ambulances and *(b)* road ambulances in areas in which air ambulances operated in the latest period for which figures are available. [170592]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not collected centrally. The ambulance response time data that is collected covers ground ambulances in England only. It does not include average response times, but does include data on performance, by each ambulance trust, against current national targets. The data is published annually. The latest statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07" was published in June 2007, a copy is available in the Library.

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time taken to respond to an emergency telephone call by the ambulance service was in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [171619]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information on the average response times to emergency calls by national health service ambulance trusts.

The data that the Department does collect on ambulance response times is published on an annual basis in the statistical bulletin, Ambulance services, England. These documents are available in the Library and on the Information Centre for Health and Social Care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-datacollections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2006-07

## Ambulances: Hygiene

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on the cleanliness of ambulances; and whether he plans to take steps to improve cleaning of ambulances. [169727]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No reports have been received by the Department on the cleanliness of ambulances recently.

Ambulance trusts are covered by the code of practice on the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections.

The Ambulance Service Association has issued guidance to ambulance trusts onmaintaining high standards of hygiene to prevent the spread of infection.

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) have also produced guidance on ambulance design recommending easy-to-clean surfaces and materials to ensure rapid decontamination.

In addition, the NPSA cleanyourhands campaign is now being extended to ambulances. In September 2007, two trusts in England (South East Coast and West Midlands) have started to pilot the campaign.

## Assura Group

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the involvement of Assura Group with primary care trusts. [169117]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This is not a matter for the Department. It is for primary care trusts to manage the performance and effectiveness of those providers delivering services on their behalf.

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the role of Assura Group is in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [169118]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is for primary care trusts to commission services that reflect the needs of the local population and to determine who to contract with to deliver these services. The Department does not collect information about contracts which are agreed locally between primary care trusts and providers.

## Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust: Finance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the financial position of Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust. [170852]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** At the end of quarter two of 2007-08, Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust is forecasting a financial year-end deficit of £34.6 million.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he expects Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust to break even by the end of financial year 2007-08. [170854]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** At the end of quarter two of 2007-08, Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust is forecasting a financial year-end deficit of £34.6 million.

## Blood: Donors

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much blood was donated via the National Blood Donor Scheme in each year that the scheme has been running. [172932]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is not possible to provide data on how much blood has been donated since blood collection first began.

The National Blood Service (NBS) is responsible for managing the blood supply in England and north Wales. Since it was established, the NBS has collected the following amounts.

| | *Units of blood collected*[1] *(million units)* |
|---|---|
| 1992-93 | 2.208 |
| 1993-94 | 2.210 |
| 1994-95 | 2.255 |
| 1995-96 | 2.330 |
| 1996-97 | 2.356 |
| 1997-98 | 2.389 |
| 1998-99 | 2.397 |
| 1999-2000 | 2.427 |
| 2000-01 | 2.356 |
| 2001-02 | 2.376 |
| 2002-03 | 2.323 |
| 2003-04 | 2.285 |
| 2004-05 | 2.143 |
| 2005-06 | 2.012 |
| 2006-07 | 1.969 |

*Note:*
These figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

## Care Homes: Complaints

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the procedure is for investigating complaints about standards of care and abuse and neglect in care homes; and what the procedure was before 2006. [172825]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** All care homes are subject to the Care Homes Regulations 2001, which include a requirement that the provider has an effective complaints procedure. All residents have access to this. Normally, the expectation is that in the first instance the complaint should be raised with the provider. In addition, people whose care needs have been assessed by local authorities, or whose care is commissioned or funded by local authorities, have access to the statutory local authority social services complaints procedure. If the local authority response does not satisfy the complainant, they are entitled to refer the matter to the local government ombudsman.

People can also raise concerns with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). CSCI welcomes representations about the standard of care in care homes and reports of suspected abuse, and will respond to these as appropriate. CSCI's role in doing so is that of a regulator, where issues are raised that impact upon the safety of services and compliance by the provider with the regulations. However, CSCI does not have a role in resolving complaints for individuals.

In addition, anyone receiving national health service health care, irrespective of their circumstances, is able to make a complaint under the NHS complaints procedure, for example, care home residents registered with a general practitioner.

The procedures for complaints relating to care homes have not altered since the current regulatory regime for care homes was introduced in 2002.

### Care Homes: Inspections

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure that standards of nursing care in nursing homes in England are inspected by registered nurses. [172826]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is responsible for all aspects of regulation and inspection of care homes in England, including those providing nursing care. CSCI employs inspectors with a range of professional skills for dealing with a mixed caseload, including approximately 300 inspectors who are registered nurses. Where possible, CSCI will assign inspectors with a nursing background to inspect nursing homes.

CSCI expects non-nurse inspectors to discuss any clinical issues arising at inspection with nursing colleagues in their team. As part of this process, CSCI has good practice guidance, known as "clinical triggers", for inspectors in respect of several areas such as nutrition, continence management and medication. These triggers alert inspectors as to when it would be appropriate to instruct the service provider to contact local health services to arrange specialist nursing assessment for a resident or, to seek advice from a clinical colleague within CSCI to ascertain whether enforcement action may be necessary.

CSCI has a source of specialist nursing advice in its Head of Health Policy and Quality. CSCI also has a head pharmacist; where there are concerns around medication, a pharmacist inspector will inspect the service. All inspectors receive training in all methodologies and tools.

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place for the inspection of *(a)* nursing homes and *(b)* hospital wards for elderly patients. [172926]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is responsible, under the Care Standards Act 2000 and associated Regulations, for all aspects of regulation and inspection of care homes providing nursing care.

Up until April 2005, all care and nursing homes were required to be inspected twice yearly. From April 2005, CSCI's inspectors started using new ways of inspecting social care providers, based on the aims set out in the consultation document, "Inspecting for Better Lives". The new inspection methodology is designed to place the people who use social care services and their experiences at the heart of the way CSCI inspects and regulates care services.

From April 2005, CSCI has carried out key inspections for care and nursing homes at a frequency determined by the quality of the service. A key inspection is a thorough, detailed inspection, under which CSCI will assess all of the key national minimum standards. For example, a "poor" quality service will receive a minimum of two key inspections a year, an "adequate" service will receive a minimum of one key inspection a year, a "good" service will receive a minimum of one key inspection every two years, and an "excellent" service will receive a key inspection a minimum of once every three years.

CSCI also carries out "random" and "thematic" inspections, which are short, focused inspections on a specific theme or area.

The Healthcare Commission is responsible for inspecting hospitals. The Healthcare Commission checks annually that core standards are in place across each national health service trust. If inspected, a trust is required to provide evidence that standards are in place in each part of the organisation. This includes wards for older patients. About 20 per cent. of trusts are selected for a core standards inspection each year.

In addition, in February 2007, the Healthcare Commission carried out a more in-depth review of dignity and care arrangements for older patients in hospital. Twenty-three hospitals were visited and a range of observations and interviews of ward staff were undertaken. The report of the findings can be found on the Healthcare Commission website at:

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk.

### Chan Wheeler

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contractual arrangements the NHS has in place to allow the Commercial Director of the NHS, Chan Wheeler, to participate in the legal actions in which he is involved in the United States of America. [169497]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Mr. Channing Wheeler, Director General, Commercial Directorate, is employed by the Department. He holds a senior civil service contract and is subject to the Department's standard leave policies. Mr. Wheeler has not taken leave to participate in any legal actions since taking up appointment on 18 June 2007. There are no contractual arrangements in place between Mr. Wheeler and the national health service.

### Chase Farm Hospital: Manpower

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors were relocated away from the Chase Farm hospital site by Barnet and Chase Farm NHS trust in each of the last 10 years. [169689]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not held centrally. Workforce planning is a matter for determination by the local national health service, as they are best placed to asses the health care needs of their local populations.

## Chiropody: Greater London

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time to see a chiropodist was in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon in each year since 1997 for which figures are available; [171095]

(2) how many patients received chiropody treatment in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon in each year since 1997 for which figures are available; [171096]

(3) what plans he has to improve NHS chiropody services in *(a)* Uxbridge and *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon; [171097]

(4) what chiropody services there are in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon. [171098]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that the services they commission meet the needs of the populations that they serve, including chiropody services.

## Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171431]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has spent the following on official Christmas cards since 2002:

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 1,243.15 |
| 2003 | 2,689 |
| 2004 | 3,480 |
| 2005 | 2,854 |
| 2006 | 3,001.92 |

All expenditure incurred in the purchase and postage of official Christmas cards is made in accordance with the Department's guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting".

The Department has spent the following on Christmas trees and tree decorations:

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 2,987.64 |
| 2003 | 3,082.51 |
| 2004 | 3,390.69 |
| 2005 | 3,546.38 |
| 2006 | 1,997.50 |

The Department has not spent anything on Christmas parties in each of the last five years. Information about what agencies spend on these items is not held centrally.

## Community Hospitals

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community or cottage hospitals were operating in 1980; how many were closed in each subsequent year; and what the change was in the number of bed spaces as a result in each year. [165157]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** These figures are not routinely collected. We are however aware that since 1980 some small hospitals have closed and some new health premises have opened. The policy developments for community hospitals contained in the "Our health, Our care, Our say" White Paper are leading to a wider range of provision of local health and social care services and this is supported by a £750 million capital investment programme for community hospitals and services.

## Dental Services

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts are operating waiting lists for patients wishing to access primary dental care. [172716]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to make local arrangements to support patients in accessing national health service dental services.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department last conducted an assessment of the level of *(a)* need and *(b)* demand for NHS primary dental care. [172752]

**Ann Keen:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing or commissioning primary dental care services to reflect local needs. PCTs have function within The Functions of Primary Care Trusts (Dental Public Health) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI No 2006/185) to undertake oral health surveys to assess and monitor oral health needs within their area. This is a local rather than centrally managed process. The Department has issued guidance to the local national health service on developing local dental commissioning plans. Additional support is available through the National Primary Care Contracting Team.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the value of the dental health care market was borne by *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* private practice in each year since 1997; and how this is calculated. [172753]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not collect data on expenditure on private dentistry which would allow it to identify the total value of the dental health care market and its apportionment between the national health service and private sectors.

## Departmental Consultants

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for which of his Department's programmes the total cost to date of employing consultants has surpassed £500,000; [170613]

(2) for which programmes his Department employs consultants at a cost of more than £100,000 per annum. [170614]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information on consultants in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

## Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 377WA, on Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body, if he will place in the Library a copy of the value for money delivery plan that his Department prepared as part of the comprehensive spending review. [169867]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In line with the requirements on all Government departments as part of the comprehensive spending review, we will be publishing our value for money delivery agreement by the end of December, following clearance by HM Treasury.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on implementing savings under the Gershon programme; and how much was saved in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [170439]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In the period up to June 2007 the Department had achieved £5,524 million towards its target of £6,470 million by March 2008.

We will be providing full details of progress up to September 2007 in our autumn performance report, which will be published in December and a copy will be placed in the Library.

## Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws; [168089]

(2) on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168255]

(3) how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168275]

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168475]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168812]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168828]

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171418]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169223]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

## Departmental Orders and Regulations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regulations his Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked in the last 12 months. [167082]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In the year ending November 2007, the Department made 99 statutory instruments and revoked 28 and part of one other.

## Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in his Department earned a salary over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167193]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table presents the data for the years as requested. Figures for 1997 to 2006 are taken from departmental annual reports. The 2007 figure is taken directly from the Department's payroll system.

| *In post date (1 April each year)* | *Number of staff earning a salary over £100,000 on that date* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 56 |
| 2006 | 64 |
| 2005 | 71 |
| 2004 | 56 |
| 2003 | 52 |
| 2002 | 39 |
| 2001 | 30 |
| 2000 | 23 |
| 1999 | 16 |
| 1998 | 12 |
| 1997 | 8 |

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171542]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table presents the total amount of bonuses paid in each year since 2004-05. The Department changed its payroll provider in 2003-04. Information on performance bonuses paid prior to those presented is only available from individual payslips. To retrieve the information for years prior to those presented would therefore involve disproportionate cost.

| | | *Total paid out as bonus* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Year in which bonus paid* | *Year to which bonus applies* | *Department (£)* | *Medicines and Healthcare products and Regulatory Agency (£)* | *NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (£)* |
| 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 1,382,549 | 593,223 | 21,644 |
| 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 1,400,049 | 349,836 | 31,758 |
| 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 1,252,140 | 276,592 | 8,600 |
| 2004-05 | 2003-04 | 1,064,465 | n/a | 9,781 |

n/a = Not available

## Departmental Postal Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170167]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has a 'standing arrangement' with Royal Mail for the delivery and collection of mail and an annual trading agreement with Parcelforce.

The Department has a formal contract with Point 2 Point for the delivery of urgent items.

In conjunction with Department for Transport the Department has a service level agreement with the Government Car Service for the delivery of mail between official buildings.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy proposals above his Department's delegated limits were approved by HM Treasury as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review process. [165709]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Approval for policies above delegated limits is agreed with Her Majesty's Treasury as and when this is needed. This is a separate process from the Comprehensive Spending Review. No specific approvals were given for expenditure above delegated limits as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates his Department made formal written submissions to HM Treasury as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review process; and what the purpose of each submission was. [165710]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department made formal written submissions to Her Majesty's Treasury as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 on 15 December 2006, 2 March and 7 September 2007. The submissions outlined the Department's plans for 2008-09 to 2010-11 for discussion with HM Treasury.

## Dermatology: Primary Health Care

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect practice-based commissioning for dermatology services is expected to have on equity of access for treatment for primary care patients. [170029]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department considers practice-based commissioning to be a key route for improving access to services, including dermatology. Practice-based commissioning has the potential to benefit patients by enabling access to a greater variety of services from a larger number of providers in settings that are closer to home or more convenient for them.

## Emergency Services: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions emergency service personnel have been disciplined for misuse of blue lights in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [170542]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally.

### English Language

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people sat the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board test in each testing centre in each of the last five years. [169563]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Secretary of State does not hold information on how many people sat the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board test in each testing centre in each of the last five years. This information can be obtained from the General Medical Council (GMC).

### General Practitioners

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 600W, on general practitioners, how many of the 100 new practices will be delivered in each of the primary care trusts identified. [169878]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department continues to discuss with the national health service how many practices will be established in each of the 38 primary care trusts (PCTs) identified as having the poorest provision. A final decision will be made in January 2008 following completion of PCT delivery plans.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 600W, on general practitioners, by what date he expects the discussions on timescales to be completed. [169879]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Primary care trusts are currently developing their timescales as part of their local delivery plans which are expected to be completed by January 2008.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 600W, on general practitioners, what guidance he has issued to primary care trusts to ensure that they procure innovative solutions and models of provision that will contribute to improvements in access and outcomes for patients. [169880]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department will shortly be publishing a procurement framework which will contain practical tools and guidance that primary care trusts (PCTs) will need to manage local procurements. The framework will explain how PCTs should work with clinicians and patients locally to develop service specifications that reflect local need and maximise innovation, including, for health centres, the extent to which they co-locate and integrate with other services, for example pharmacy, diagnostics and social care.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what indicators his Department used to determine comparative levels of GP provision in primary care trusts. [169956]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The indicators that have been used to determine the 25 per cent. of primary care trusts with poorest provision are listed as follows and reflect the criteria identified in 'Our NHS, Our Future', i.e. fewest primary care clinicians, poorest health outcomes and lowest patient satisfaction.

*Primary care clinicians*

Whole time equivalents (wte) general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 weighted population; and wte practice nurses per 100,000 weighted population.

*Health outcomes*

male life expectancy;

female life expectancy;

cancer mortality among under 75s;

cardiovascular mortality among under 75s;

index of multiple deprivation (health);

percentage of patients with diabetes in whose glycated haemoglobin is 7.5 mg or less;

percentage of patients with hypertension in whose blood pressure reading is 150/90 or less.

*Patient satisfaction*

percentage of patients seen within 48 hours;

percentage of patients able to book an appointment more than 2 days ahead;

percentage of patients satisfied with their practice telephone system;

percentage of patients able to see a specific GP; and

percentage of patients satisfied with practice opening hours.

### General Practitioners: Databases

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects sealed envelope software is likely to be available for testing in each of the main established GP systems; and what plans he has to pilot the software within established discrete General Practice databases before being rolled out to databases accessible by multiple providers. [168953]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The 'sealed envelope' is a set of requirements for the management of patient data which is in accordance with undertakings given in the NHS Care Record Guarantee. The requirements were developed in consultation with general practitioners (GPs) and reflect existing security mechanisms found in the main established GP systems, but will operate with a consistent naming convention and a consistent set of procedures. The sealed envelope functionality therefore does not require new or innovative software to be developed for GP systems but will require compliance testing with the Spine when this functionality is available in mid-2008.

Under the recently-awarded GP Systems of Choice (GP SoC) contract NHS Connecting for Health will engage with GP system suppliers to agree compliance plans for sealed envelope and other information governance controls.

### General Practitioners: Greater London

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there were in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* Hillingdon Primary Care Trust and *(c)* Greater London in each year since 1997. [169676]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested can be found in the following table which shows the number of General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] for London, Hillingdon Health Authority (HA) and Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (of which Uxbridge is a part) for the period 1997 to 2006 (which is the latest data available).

*Number (headcount)*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 28,046 | 28,251 | 28,467 | 28,593 | 28,802 | 29,202 | 30,358 | 31,523 | 32,738 | 33,091 |
| London | 4,324 | 4,273 | 4,275 | 4,307 | 4,301 | 4,327 | 4,531 | 4,695 | 4,896 | 4,868 |
| Hillingdon HA | 127 | 128 | 127 | 127 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Hillingdon PCT | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 132 | 129 | 131 | 144 | 138 | 143 |

[1] Denotes data not available.

*Note:*

Data presented for organisations in existence in the specified years.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

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[1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes general practitioner (GP) providers and GP others.

## General Practitioners: Publications

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS publications have been sent to general practitioners since May 2005. [170622]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In the period since May 2005 there have been a programme of publications sent to all general practitioners (GPs) via a regular mailout. The details of these are as follows.

Added to this, there have been a number of ad hoc mailings of national health service publications to individual general practitioners or groupings of general practitioners. As well as this, the Department has also sent to general practices a number of NHS publications to practices with the intention that these be made available to members of the public in waiting rooms. We do not have figures for either ad hoc mailings to general practitioners or for publications aimed at the general public, and to identify these numbers would involve disproportionate costs.

The following NHS publications were sent to all GPs since May 2005:

GP bulletin and GP and Practice Team bulletin: 10-12 bulletins per year. If registered via the Department's website GPs will have received these via an e-mail link. Otherwise hard copies have been sent by post.

16 May 2005: GP Bulletin—May 2005—Issue 40

17 May 2005: GP Bulletin—May 2005—Issue 40 reissue

7 June 2005: GP Bulletin—June 2005—Issue 41

4 July 2005: GP Bulletin—July 2005—Issue 42

5 August 2005: GP Bulletin—August 2005—Issue 43

5 September 2005: GP Bulletin—September 2005—Issue 44

6 October 2005: GP Bulletin—October 2005—Issue 45

4 November 2005: GP Bulletin—November 2005—Issue 46

5 December 2005: GP Bulletin—December 2005/January 2006—Issue 47

6 February 2006: GP Bulletin—February 2006—Issue 48

24 February 2006: GP Bulletin—March 2006—Issue 49

24 March 2006: GP Bulletin—April 2006—Issue 50

28 April 2006: GP Bulletin—May 2006—Issue 51

26 May 2006: GP Bulletin—June 2006—Issue 52

30 June 2006: GP Bulletin—July 2006—Issue 53

1 August 2006: GP Bulletin—August 2006—Issue 54

25 August 2006: GP Bulletin—September 2006—Issue 55

29 September 2006: GP Bulletin—October 2006—Issue 56

27 October 2006: GP Bulletin—November 2006—Issue 57

23 November 2006: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—December 2006—Issue 58

26 January 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—February 2006—Issue 59

2 March 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—March 2007—Issue 60

2 April 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—April 2007—Issue 61

11 May 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—May 2007—Issue 62

8 June 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—June 2007—Issue 63

10 July 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—July 2007—Issue 64

3 August 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—August 2007—Issue 65

7 September 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—September 2007—Issue 66

11 October 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—October 2007—Issue 67

2 November 2007: GP and Practice Team Bulletin—November 2007—Issue 68

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Updates. Ordinarily there are between two-four editions per year, although in 2007 there was only one.

July 2005: CMO Update—Issue 42

January 2006: CMO Update—Issue 43

August 2006: CMO Update—Issue 44

October 2006: CMO Update—Issue 45

November 2007: CMO Update—Issue 46

British National Formulary (BNF): There are two editions per year (sent to general practitioners in March and October of each year), plus one Children's BNF in addition to this (sent to GPs in September of each year).

NHS Choices Magazine: a hard copy mailout of this publication was sent to all GPs in August 2007.

### General Practitioners: Questionnaires

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which departmental questionnaires have been sent to general practitioners since May 1997. [170621]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department regularly carries out surveys of the national health service. There have been no surveys specifically targeted at general practitioners, although a survey carried out for the Departments "What Matters to Staff" earlier this year included 3,000 General Practice staff.

### General Practitioners: Working Hours

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 178W, on GP service provision, what the dates were of meetings held between his officials and the group of out-of-hours providers brought together by the NHS Alliance in the last 12 months; and if he will place the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each meeting in the Library. [167757]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The dates of meetings held between officials and the group of out-of-hours providers brought together by the NHS Alliance in the last 12 months are:

20 February 2007
22 May 2007
9 October 2007

A copy of the agenda and minutes for each of the meetings, with the exception of minutes for the meeting on 22 May 2007, when the meeting was brief and minutes were not recorded, have been placed in the Library.

### Health and Social Care Information Centre

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what items of information are available through the Information Centre for Health and Social Care's catalogue; whether each item of information is available to *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* other interested parties and *(c)* the public; what (i) additions and (ii) deletions from the catalogue he anticipates taking place over the next 12 months; what changes in the availability of access to information contained in the catalogue he anticipates taking place over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [170034]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Information Centre for health and social care's catalogue can be accessed at the Information Centre's website at www.ic.nhs.uk. The Catalogue lists over 600 data collections and identifies where data are published. The Information Centre is currently reviewing which data should be made available in the catalogue in the future.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* the Information Centre for Health and Social Care and *(b)* the NHS Business Services Authority has had with (i) the British Medical Association, (ii) the Royal College of Nursing and (iii) other interested parties on data collection in each month since June 2007; what the content was of these discussions; and if he will make a statement. [170035]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Information Centre for health and social care and the National Health Service Business Services Authority have had discussions since June 2007 with a wide range of stakeholders, including the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing and other interested parties. Contact with stakeholders may be formal or informal and will cover data collections and standards where this is relevant.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Information Centre for Health and Social Care's priority projects are for 2008-09. [170071]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Information Centre's priority projects for 2008-09 will be made available in March 2008 and published on its website at

www.ic.nhs.uk.

### Health Hazards: Asbestos

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely cost of asbestos disposal in NHS properties in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [170623]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally. Responsibility for the disposal of asbestos found in any national health service property is a matter for local management. The NHS, along with all other industries has been alert to the risks associated with asbestos for many years, and managers are aware of their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002.

### Health Professions: Conditions of Employment

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is the senior official responsible for the Modernising Medical Careers Programme Board. [172486]

**Ann Keen:** The Director General Workforce, as the Programme's Departmental Management Board sponsor, and the Chief Medical Officer, as the Department's medical lead, are responsible for the Modernising Medical Careers Programme Board.

### Health Services

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have *(a)* completed and *(b)* not yet completed a strategic services development plan; and in which year each completed plan was completed. [168928]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Strategic service development plans (SSDPs) are required as part of the overall partnership agreements underpinning primary care trusts (PCTs) and other trusts who are parties to local improvement finance trust (LIFT) agreements. Part of that partnership agreement is a contractual obligation on the parties to update the SSDP on an annual basis. There is no requirement for SSDPs to be completed in non-LIFT areas.

No central record is kept of the status of individual SSDPs. The following information lists PCTs with LIFT agreements.

Ashton, Leigh and Wigan
Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Barnsley
Bassetlaw
Bedfordshire
Bexley Care Trust
Birmingham East and North
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching
Bolton
Bradford and Airedale Teaching
Brent Teaching
Bristol Teaching
Bromley
Bury
Camden
City and Hackney Teaching
Cornwall and Iles of Scilly
Coventry Teaching
Croydon
Derby City
Derbyshire County
Doncaster
Dudley
Ealing
East and North Hertfordshire
East Lancashire
Greenwich Teaching
Halton and St. Helens
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hampshire
Haringey Teaching
Harrow
Havering
Heart of Birmingham Teaching
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Hull Teaching
Islington
Kingston
Knowsley
Lambeth
Leeds
Leicester City Teaching
Leicestershire Country and Rutland
Lewisham
Liverpool
Manchester
Medway Teaching
Middlesbrough
Milton Keynes
Newcastle
Newham
Norfolk
North East Essex
North Staffordshire
North Tyneside
North Yorkshire and York
Northamptonshire Teaching
Northumberland Care Trust
Nottingham City
Nottingham Country Teaching
Oldham
Oxfordshire
Plymouth Teaching
Redbridge
Richmond and Twickenham
Rochdale Heywood and Middleton
Salford Teaching
Sandwell
Sefton
Sheffield
South Birmingham
South East Essex
Southampton City
Southwark
Stoke on Trent Teaching
Suffolk
Sutton and Merton
Tameside and Glossop
Tower Hamlets
Trafford
Walsall Teaching
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth Teaching
Warrington
West Kent
Wolverhampton City

## Health Services: Armed Forces

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the potential numbers of *(a)* serving and *(b)* veteran services personnel who (i) are eligible for and (ii) have received priority for treatment in the NHS in each of the last three years. [170210]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The recent extension of long-standing arrangements for priority treatment for war pensioners to all veterans, for service-related conditions, does not affect the current arrangements for serving military personnel to get accelerated access to the national health service in certain circumstances.

There are about 4.8 million veterans. Most veterans with service-related conditions are already receiving any health care that they need for those conditions, sometimes with priority access as war pensioners. Our view is that the extension of the priority treatment arrangements will be relevant to only a small number of veterans.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the *(a)* 10 primary care trusts with the highest concentrations of serving and veteran service personnel and *(b)* the NHS of the decision to give priority treatment to serving and veteran service personnel. [170213]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information is not available about which primary care trusts (PCTs) have the highest concentration of veterans. The extension of priority treatment to all veterans will not affect serving military personnel, as their arrangements for accelerated access to the national health service are not changing. As with the current arrangements for priority treatment for war pensioners, decisions about priority treatment for all veterans will be made by the relevant clinicians, and will be subject to clinical need. There should be no significant additional cost: the policy is about prioritisation of future referrals.

### Health Services: EC Accession

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of migration from A8 countries on health spending per capita in each Government Office region. [167650]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Funding is allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each PCTs' share of available resources, to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need.

The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations are based on 2003 based long-term sub-national population projections published by the Office for National Statistics. Population projections forecast the population from a base year estimate, taking into account ageing and assumptions based on past trends about births, deaths and migration.

The Home Office recently sought information on the effect of migration from A8 countries from each regional Government office for a presentation given by the Minister for Borders and Immigration to the Migration Impacts Forum (MIF). This was based mainly on anecdotal evidence from regional sources but many regions did in fact point to the young demographic and implicit good health of recent arrivals. We will be using future meetings of the MIF to discuss and consider in more detail health issues related to migration.

### Health Services: Foreigners

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the submissions to the 2004 consultation Proposals to Exclude Overseas Visitors from Eligibility to Free NHS Primary Medical Services. [169116]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The responses to the 2004 consultation, 'Proposals to Exclude Overseas Visitors from Eligibility to Free NHS Primary Medical Services' were both extensive and inconclusive. They highlighted a range of difficult and sensitive issues.

As a result, all these issues are now being considered as part of the joint Department of Health and Home Office review of the rules governing access to the national health service by foreign nationals. The review was announced on 7 March in the Home Office publication, 'Enforcing the Rules: A new strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws'.

The review is due to be completed shortly and will then be followed by a full public consultation. The responses to the 2004 consultation are being considered as part of this review, we will publish the responses to the 2004 consultation when the Review of Access to the NHS by foreign nationals goes out to public consultation in spring 2008.

### Health Services: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions Stroud District Council has had with Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust on the proposal to increase primary care provision in the new settlement of Hunts Grove, with particular reference to *(a)* numbers of GPs and *(b)* dentistry provision. [171018]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in conjunction with other local stakeholders and their strategic health authorities to make assessments of health needs and to commission services accordingly.

Therefore, this is a matter between Stroud district council and Gloucestershire PCT.

My hon. Friend may wish to approach the council or the PCT directly on this matter.

### Health Services: NHS Direct

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has plans to integrate the services provided by NHS walk-in centres with NHS Direct. [166447]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are no plans nationally to integrate these services. NHS Direct offers telephone advice and refers callers to NHS walk-in centres and other local services where face-to-face contact is needed.

### Health Services: Private Sector

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the levels of expenditure by private companies on primary care premises and polyclinics; and if he will make a statement. [169195]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts to agree locally with providers the level of investment into primary care premises.

### Health Services: Publicity

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of creating his Department's End Waiting, Change Lives brand, broken down by *(a)* internal and *(b)* external consultancy costs. [170193]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The creative design cost to develop the End Waiting, Changes Lives identity was £96,691.50. The cost includes developing and testing creative routes, refining the chosen route and applying it across materials and account management.

There were no internal consultancy costs.

## Health Services: Reform

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the next Government Professional Health Reform Implementation Programme National Advisory Conference will take place; and what steps he is taking to ensure the representation of the public and patients. [169177]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence has been asked to host the next meeting of the National Advisory Group, which was proposed in 'Trust, Assurance and Safety', in spring 2008. A precise date and time has yet to be arranged. The Council has been asked to ensure that at least 50, of an estimated 500, places are available to patient and the public representatives.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the final reports to Ministers from the chairpersons of each of the seven Government Professional Health Reform Implementation Programme work streams are required to reflect a consensus position of all chairpersons. [169186]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Chairpersons of each of the seven national working groups will not be required to reflect a consensus position of all chairpersons of the seven working groups. Each chairperson has been selected for their personal expertise in a particular area and the recommendations which they make will be considered in their totality by Ministers.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responses his Department has received as a result of the work of each of the seven Government Professional Health Reform Implementation Programme work streams; and what the dates were of those responses. [169187]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As yet none of the working groups have reported, although we expect the Enhancing Confidence in Healthcare Professional Regulators chair to submit the report from his working group to the Department by the end of November.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which representatives of which public and patient organisations attended each of the seven Government Professional Health Reform Implementation Programme work streams; when each was invited to participate; how many of these meetings each attended; what estimate he has made of the period of time between the receipt of papers for meetings and the dates of those meetings; and whether patient and public representatives have been given opportunities to make formal presentations at those meetings. [169188]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

Patient and public representatives have been asked to contribute to working groups on an equal basis to other working group members.

*Working group meetings and patient and public representation*

| *Working group* | *Sub-group* | *Meeting dates* | *Papers circulated on* | *Patient and public representatives* | *Date invited* | *Number of meetings attended* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Enhancing Confidence in the Professional Regulators | | 6 November 2007 | 2 November 2007 | Ms Margaret Goose, Chair of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Patient and Carer Involvement Steering Group | 17 August 2007 | Two of Three |
| | | 12 October 2007 | 9 October 2007 | | | |
| | | 21 September 2007 | 19 September 2007 | | | |
| Health for Health Professionals | | 13 August 2007 | 7 August 2007 | Mr. Anthony Halperin, Acting Chair, Patients Association | 6 August 2007 | Two of Two |
| | | 19 November 2007 | 15 November 2007 | Ms Frances Blunden, Principal Policy Adviser, Which? | 24 July 2007 | One of Two |
| | | | | Dr. Patricia Willkie, Patient/public representative, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges | 24 July 2007 | One of Two |
| Medical Revalidation and Education | | 23 July 2007 | 20 July 2007 | Ms Judy Wilson, Independent Consultant | June 2007 | Three of Three |
| | | 8 October 2007 | 3 October 2007 | | | |
| | | 19 November 2007 | 16 November 2007 | | | |
| Non-Medical Revalidation | | 23 July 2007 | 19 July 2007 | Ms Kate Webb, Principal Policy Adviser, Which? | 17 July 2007 | Two of Two |

*Working group meetings and patient and public representation*

| *Working group* | *Sub-group* | *Meeting dates* | *Papers circulated on* | *Patient and public representatives* | *Date invited* | *Number of meetings attended* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 November 2007 | 26 October 2007 | Ms Judy Wilson, Independent Consultant | 16 October 2007 | One of One |
| Tackling Concerns Locally | | 19 July 2007 | 16 July 2007 | Ms Ann Alexander, Patients Association Trustee | 2 July 2007 | Delegate sent to Two of Two meetings |
| | | 27 September 2007 | 24 September 2007 | Mr. Peter Walsh, Action Against Medical Accidents | | Two of Two |
| | Tackling Concerns Locally, GMC Affiliates Sub-group | 14 November 2007 | 8 November 2007 | Peter Walsh, Action Against Medical Accidents | 23 October 2007 | One of One |
| | | | | Ann Alexander, Patients Association | 23 October 2007 | Zero of One |
| | | | | Frances Blunden, Principal Policy Adviser, Which? | 23 October 2007 | One of One |
| | | | | Celia Davies, Visiting Professor LSE | 23 October 2007 | One of One |
| | | | | Patricia Wilkie, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Patient Liaison Group | 23 October 2007 | Zero of One |
| | Tackling Concerns Locally, Responsible Officer Sub-group | 16 October 2007 | 11 October 2007 | Jonathan Coe (Witness) | 7 September 2007 | Zero of Two |
| | | 14 November 2007 | 8 November 2007 | | | |
| | Tackling Concerns Locally, Performers List Sub-group | 18 July 2007 | This sub-group agreed to publish meeting papers on a dedicated internet-based workspace rather than circulate them by email | 18 July 2007 | No Public, patient involvement (PPI) Representative | No PPI Representative |
| | | 24 September 2007 | | 24 September 2007 | | |
| | | 23 October 2007 | | 23 October 2007 | | |
| | | 20 November 2007 | | 20 November 2007 | | |
| | Tackling Concerns Locally, Raising Concerns and Managing Information Sub-group | 7 December 2007 (planned) | Group has yet to meet | Peter Walsh (Action Against Medical Accidents) | 13 November 2007 | n/a |
| | Tackling Concerns Locally, Clinical Governance Sub-group | 10 December 2007 (planned) | Group has yet to meet | Patient | 15 November 2007 | n/a |
| | Tackling Concerns Locally, Death Certification Sub-group | To be confirmed (TBC) | Group has yet to meet | TBC | Invitations have not yet been sent | Group has yet to meet |
| Extending Professional Regulation | | 21 November 2007 | 14 November 2007 | Professor Celia Davies (nominated by Which) | 24 October | One of One |

*Working group meetings and patient and public representation*

| *Working group* | *Sub-group* | *Meeting dates* | *Papers circulated on* | *Patient and public representatives* | *Date invited* | *Number of meetings attended* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Dr. Ron Walton (Vale of Glamorgan Community Health Council) | 24 October | One of One |
| Tackling Concerns Nationally | | TBA | n/a | TBC | Invitations have not yet been sent | Group has yet to meet |

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to enhance public and patient confidence in each of the seven Government Professional Health Reform Implementation Programme work streams. [169194]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We are proposing an event specifically for patient and public representatives in new year 2008 once all of the working groups have met. The purpose of the event will be to present the programme as a whole to representatives and to seek their feedback. This is in addition to the continuing involvement of patient and public representatives in the working groups and the National Advisory Group meeting. We are also planning to increase the number of public and patient representatives at the next National Advisory Group meeting.

## Health Services: Standards

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much additional funding his Department has provided for NHS communicators to support the End waiting, change lives campaign, broken down by financial year. [170191]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department provided each strategic health authority with an additional £50,000 during the 2007-08 financial year.

## Hillingdon Hospital: Hospital Beds

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed spaces there were on average at Hillingdon hospital in each year since 1997. [169679]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested can be found in the following table, which shows the number of average available and occupied beds at Hillingdon hospital NHS trust since 1997 to 2006.

*The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust*

| | *Total (available)* | *Total (occupied)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 566 | 516 |
| 1998-99 | 567 | 498 |
| 1999-2000 | 573 | 519 |
| 2000-01 | 654 | 581 |
| 2001-02 | 661 | 585 |
| 2002-03 | 668 | 594 |
| 2003-04 | 539 | 472 |
| 2004-05 | 512 | 441 |
| 2005-06 | 538 | 433 |
| 2006-07 | 480 | 395 |

*Source:*
Department of Health form KH03

## Hillingdon Primary Care Trust: Finance

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial position is of Hillingdon Primary Care Trust. [171094]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The current financial position of Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (PCT) shows that at quarter two 2007-08 the PCT is forecasting a year-end breakeven position.

## Hospital Wards: Closures

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospitals have closed wards since May 1997; and in which constituencies they are located; [170627]

(2) which hospitals have closed since May 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [170628]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally.

National health service organisations will decide locally what constitutes the best configuration of health care services and facilities for their populations, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

In some localities, services may be provided in large centralised hospitals, while others may offer the same services in a community setting. The number, type and configuration of wards will depend on the range and extent of services to be provided.

## Hospitals: Housing

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether trusts are able to rent hospital accommodation to *(a)* persons who are not junior doctors and *(b)* persons who are not health professionals. [170567]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** National health service trusts may carry out property transactions that are linked to their ability to carry out their functions.

In addition, NHS trusts have income generation powers under the National Health Service Act 2006 allowing them to raise additional income by marketing any spare capacity provided it does not, to any significant extent, interfere with the performance by trusts of their functions. These powers include "supplying accommodation to any person".

### Hospitals: Parking

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he has issued on NHS hospitals levying car parking charges on disabled parking bays; and if he will make a statement; [171867]

(2) how many NHS hospital trusts in England charge patients and visitors who are disabled badge holders for parking at their hospitals. [171887]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department issued revised guidance to the national health service in December 2006 entitled Income Generation: Car Parking Charges—Best Practice for Implementation on the issues to be considered when setting up a car parking scheme or when reviewing existing ones, including what charges to impose and what concessions to consider. This guidance strongly encourages the NHS to be sensitive to those patients who have to use their car parks regularly, by, for instance, offering them reduced price or free car parking. The guidance also stresses the importance of considering the needs of disabled users.

There is no statistical information collected on the number of NHS trusts in England which charge disabled badge holders for parking at their hospitals. It is therefore not possible to provide this information.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in *(a)* England and *(b)* Teesside follow his Department's guidance on providing car parking concessions for patients travelling regularly for treatment; and what steps he has taken in relation to hospitals which do not follow the guidance. [171966]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There is no statistical information collected on the number of hospitals in England that provide car parking concessions for patients travelling regularly for treatment. It is therefore not possible to provide this information.

Guidance issued to the national health service in December 2006 entitled "Income Generation: Car Parking Charges—Best Practice for Implementation" strongly encourages national health service bodies to be sensitive to those patients who have to use their car parks regularly, by, for instance, offering them reduced price or free car parking. However, NHS bodies are autonomous organisations and are not statutorily obliged to implement this best practice. It is for individual NHS bodies to set the level of charges on their premises, taking account of all the relevant local factors.

### Medical Equipment

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the evidential basis is for the statement on page 7 of the consultation document Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care that there are indications that underlying manufacturing costs have gone down; [163866]

(2) which companies supplying products listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff have provided information to his Department of a decline in manufacturing costs; [163867]

(3) which products were used to set the benchmark price in the proposed new pricing model for catheter, incontinence and stoma items; and when they were first listed on the Drug Tariff. [163870]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** About £200 million a year is spent on appliances listed in part IXA (catheter-related), part IXB (continence-related) and part IXC (stoma-related) of the Drug Tariff.

Arrangements for reimbursement of these remained largely unchanged for 20 years and information obtained through the consultation process to date indicates that efficiencies have been achieved in the manufacturing process. If this is not the case, the current consultation gives all parties the opportunity to provide evidence to the contrary.

The proposed levels of reimbursement for catheter, continence and stoma-related appliances was set by using a pricing model that is set out in annex C of the consultation document entitled "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care. Revised proposals".

Within each subcategory, the market share for products is measured as a percentage of total annual net ingredient cost spend. To determine the pricing model benchmark price, products with very low market share are excluded—as they may not represent a valid benchmark for pricing comparison. In relation to stoma and incontinence appliances, the Department proposed that products of less than 0.1 per cent. of market share should be excluded for benchmarking purposes.

This model was applied to the 5,000 plus items that are listed in parts IXA, B and C. As proposed, these items have been classified into 228 categories. To identify the date that the items that were at the benchmark price were first listed in the Drug Tariff could be done only at disproportionate cost to the Department. Information provided during meetings and in correspondence and has been offered commercial in confidence.

### Medical Records: Databases

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances a patient's wishes expressed as a section 10 opt-out from the summary care record are expected to be overridden. [168955]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Data Protection Act 1998 makes it clear that a section 10 request should only be overridden where the purpose served by processing the data is sufficiently important to warrant doing so even where it is accepted that substantial harm or distress is being caused. We do not expect there to be many, if any, circumstances where this would arise in the case of an individual who is competent to make decisions. We are, however, taking legal advice, and consulting with the Department for Children, Families and Schools, about the position in respect of those that lack competence, where all decisions should be taken in the individual's best interests.

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it will be lawful for the secondary users database to be searched at the request of the police and for the police to be provided with the identity of individuals whose medical records contain specific information. [168956]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Data from the secondary uses service will only be disclosed to the police where it is in the overriding public interest, for example to prevent, or support detection of, extremely serious crimes, where there is statutory authority, or where the courts have made an order requiring disclosure.

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the data controller will be in respect of the information stored on the secondary users database. [169023]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The data controller for information held within the secondary users service is the Department. Other organisations lawfully permitted access to data held within the secondary users service will be data controllers in common for the subset of data that they can access.

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances he may be designated the data controller in relation to personal data processed on a detailed care record. [169025]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** With regard to detailed care records provided as part of the national health service care records service, the Department is data controller in common with the NHS organisations providing health care to patients. Although key data controller responsibilities such as overall network and technical system security are managed through the Department's contracts, most data controller responsibilities will be discharged by local organisations. However, there may be occasions, for example due to an organisation ceasing to exist or function, where the Department is the sole data controller for the data concerned.

## Midwives: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives worked in each London primary care trust on the 1 July in each of the last 10 years. [169376]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

However, midwives are employed primarily by acute trusts, so the figures shown are for all organisations which employ midwives in the London Strategic Health Authority area. The non-medical workforce census, which the figures are taken from, is collected as at 30 September.

*National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in the London Strategic Health Authority area by organisation as at 30 September each specified year*

*Headcount*

| | | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London Strategic Health Authority area* | | 3,370 | 3,406 | 3,581 | 3,399 | 3,526 | 3,601 | 3,981 | 3,950 | 4,338 | 4,307 |
| Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | RF4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 248 | 244 | 283 | 284 | 297 | 292 |
| Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | RVL | n/a | n/a | 222 | 206 | 229 | 260 | 247 | 242 | 270 | 243 |
| Barts and the London NHS Trust | RNJ | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 119 | 150 | 142 | 131 | 115 |
| Brent and Harrow HA | QAR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust | RG3 | 94 | 97 | 89 | 84 | 87 | 88 | 90 | 96 | 109 | 121 |
| Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust | RAU | 48 | 57 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust | RG9 | 135 | 120 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust | RQM | 129 | 149 | 152 | 146 | 142 | 148 | 151 | 121 | 188 | 165 |
| Croydon PCT | 5K9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ealing Hospital NHS Trust | RC3 | 101 | 80 | 92 | 110 | 131 | 65 | 69 | 88 | 91 | 45 |
| Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust | RVR | n/a | n/a | 256 | 242 | 210 | 232 | 231 | 220 | 229 | 225 |
| Forest Healthcare NHS Trust | RDF | 110 | 116 | 117 | 109 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Guys and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust | RJ1 | 176 | 235 | 189 | 140 | 170 | 176 | 234 | 239 | 286 | 342 |

*National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in the London Strategic Health Authority area by organisation as at 30 September each specified year*

| | | | | | | | | | | | Headcount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006*[1] |
| Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust | RQN | 46 | 71 | 150 | 188 | 198 | 172 | 141 | 154 | 214 | 160 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 5C9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Havering Hospitals NHS Trust | RG7 | 141 | 140 | 132 | 147 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust | RAS | 167 | 132 | 105 | 105 | 106 | 184 | 175 | 157 | 125 | 145 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 5AT | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | RQX | 156 | 130 | 121 | 99 | 132 | 159 | 159 | 196 | 196 | 179 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 5LA | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| King's College Hospital NHS Trust | RJZ | 151 | 115 | 132 | 128 | 160 | 161 | 198 | 197 | 209 | 210 |
| Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | RAX | 156 | 176 | 177 | 165 | 157 | 160 | 162 | 155 | 172 | 179 |
| *London Strategic Health Authority* | Q36 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Mayday HealthCare NHS Trust | RJ6 | 157 | 44 | 200 | 89 | 111 | 98 | 99 | 106 | 102 | 141 |
| Newham Community Health Services NHS Trust | RRH | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newham University Hospital NHS Trust | RNH | 115 | 141 | 157 | 115 | 125 | 119 | 119 | 118 | 146 | 156 |
| North East London SHA | Q06 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | RAP | 107 | 111 | 97 | 96 | 104 | 100 | 117 | 127 | 93 | 87 |
| North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | RV8 | 0 | 0 | 158 | 174 | 129 | 135 | 137 | 125 | 149 | 116 |
| Northwick Park Hospital NHS Trust | RFZ | 98 | 106 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust | RG2 | 88 | 109 | 19 | 52 | 29 | 26 | 178 | 99 | 137 | 157 |
| Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust | RGZ | 159 | 162 | 161 | 151 | 175 | 204 | 161 | 124 | 122 | 109 |
| Redbridge Health Care NHS Trust | RG4 | 103 | 111 | 99 | 100 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Redbridge PCT | 5NA | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmond, Twickenham and Roehampton NHS Trust | RHG | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | RAL | 26 | 25 | 50 | 38 | 51 | 95 | 105 | 72 | 99 | 131 |
| St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | RJ7 | 116 | 119 | 120 | 134 | 138 | 146 | 150 | 148 | 176 | 143 |
| St. Helier NHS Trust | RAZ | 156 | 164 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| St. Mary's NHS Trust | RJ5 | 81 | 84 | 87 | 74 | 75 | 71 | 87 | 105 | 110 | 135 |
| The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | RJ2 | 53 | 99 | 102 | 111 | 103 | 114 | 127 | 106 | 140 | 143 |

*National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in the London Strategic Health Authority area by organisation as at 30 September each specified year*

| | | | | | | | | | | | *Headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006*[1] |
| The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | RKE | 112 | 103 | 137 | 136 | 103 | 106 | 84 | 154 | 176 | 159 |
| Tower Hamlets Healthcare NHS Trust | RRG | 127 | 139 | 137 | 121 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 5C4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 117 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | RRV | 20 | 30 | 35 | 52 | 64 | 67 | 85 | 94 | 101 | 134 |
| Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT | 5C6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wellhouse NHS Trust | RDC | 135 | 140 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | RFW | 104 | 101 | 88 | 86 | 109 | 67 | 81 | 94 | 123 | 127 |
| Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust | RGC | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 122 | 80 | 156 | 184 | 143 | 145 |

n/a = not applicable

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent., of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

*Note*

Data are presented for NHS organisations in existence for each year.

*Source*

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

## NHS Business Services Authority

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the NHS Business Services Authority's priority projects for 2008-09. [170032]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The NHS Business Services Authority's (NHSBSA) priority projects for 2008-09 are as follows:

full implementation of the capacity improvement programme;

implementation of the new NHS pension scheme;

modernisation of the NHS pension service;

review of major contractual arrangements;

NHS supply chain benefits realisation;

review of injury benefits;

enhancing dental information services;

supporting the development of electronic prescription service and ensuring NHSBSA readiness; and

improving our operational value for money through efficiency plans and benchmarking.

## NHS Direct

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 611WA, on NHS Direct, what the *(a)* date and *(b)* subject was of each ad hoc meeting held in the past 12 months. [169875]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not available. These meetings are generally informal and therefore a record is not maintained.

## NHS Direct: Nurses

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 612WA, on NHS Direct, how many *(a)* health advisers and *(b)* nurse advisers were employed at NHS Direct in each month. [169876]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This is a matter for NHS Direct NHS Trust. They have provided the data in the following table.

| *Month* | *Nurse advisers* | *Health advisers* |
|---|---|---|
| November 2005 | 1,043 | 679 |
| December 2005 | 1,035 | 662 |
| January 2006 | 1,022 | 652 |
| February 2006 | 1,014 | 653 |
| March 2006 | 998 | 649 |
| April 2006 | 989 | 649 |
| May 2006 | 960 | 632 |
| June 2006 | 942 | 611 |
| July 2006 | 916 | 584 |
| August 2006 | 911 | 570 |
| September 2006 | 879 | 568 |
| October 2006 | 869 | 540 |
| November 2006 | 843 | 539 |
| December 2006 | 810 | 532 |
| January 2007 | 800 | 538 |
| February 2007 | 861 | 617 |
| March 2007 | 933 | 656 |
| April 2007 | 858 | 656 |
| May 2007 | 836 | 607 |

| *Month* | *Nurse advisers* | *Health advisers* |
|---|---|---|
| June 2007 | 830 | 602 |
| July 2007 | 834 | 574 |
| August 2007 | 817 | 572 |
| September 2007 | 810 | 591 |

### NHS Treatment Centres: Cornwall

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 612-4W, on NHS Treatment Centres: Cornwall, what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the transfer of waiting list patients from the Royal Cornwall Trust to the Independent Sector Treatment Centre on the funding that the Royal Cornwall Trust receives through the Payment by Results system. [169401]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) have been able to provide additional surgical capacity in the south-west while offering patients a wider choice of hospitals for their treatment. The treatment centres have helped local national health service hospitals in achieving their own maximum waiting time targets. Prior to the opening of the treatment centres, the local NHS used private sector capacity in an unstructured way to manage demand from general practitioners, but the introduction of treatment centres has reduced the requirement for this.

We do not expect any hospital trust which is providing high quality, accessible services that meet patient needs to sustain a negative impact under Payment by Results, but ultimately it will be for patients to decide where they are treated under Choice.

### NHS: Administration

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* management in the NHS in each year since 1992 (i) in gross terms and (ii) as a percentage of the total NHS budget. [164593]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

| | *Administration* | | *Management* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total costs (£ million)* | *As a percentage of total national health service expenditure* | *Total costs (£ million)* | *As a percentage of total national health service expenditure* |
| 1992-93 | 1,545 | 5.5 | 497 | 1.8 |
| 1993-94 | 1,605 | 5.5 | 612 | 2.1 |
| 1994-95 | 1,637 | 5.4 | 716 | 2.3 |
| 1995-96 | 1,699 | 5.3 | 789 | 2.5 |
| 1996-97 | 1,786 | 5.4 | 867 | 2.6 |
| 1997-98 | 1,825 | 5.3 | 912 | 2.6 |
| 1998-99 | 1,936 | 5.3 | 952 | 2.6 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,078 | 5.2 | 1,054 | 2.6 |
| 2000-01 | 2,279 | 5.2 | 1,187 | 2.7 |
| 2001-02 | 2,597 | 5.3 | 1,332 | 2.7 |
| 2002-03 | 2,893 | 5.4 | 1,571 | 2.9 |
| 2003-04 | 3,188 | 5.0 | 1,777 | 2.8 |
| 2004-05 | 3,412 | 4.9 | 2,098 | 3.0 |
| 2005-06 | 3,648 | 4.8 | 2,213 | 2.9 |
| 2006-07 | 3,619 | 4.5 | 2,088 | 2.6 |

*Note*:

Figures for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 exclude data for foundation trusts.

*Sources*:

Annual financial returns (unaudited) for primary care trusts, (strategic) health authorities and NHS trusts 1992-93 to 2006-07

NHS total expenditure (England) 1992-93 to 2006-07

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* management (i) as a percentage of the total budget and (ii) as the cost per head of population in the areas covered by each (A) primary care trust, (B) acute trust, (C) ambulance trust, (D) mental health trust, (E) foundation trust, (F) strategic health authority, (G) special health authority and (H) NHS arms length body in England in the last year for which figures are available. [164594]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information available (2006-07) for primary care trusts, all national health service trusts and strategic health authorities has been placed in the Library.

It is not possible to show cost per head of population figures for NHS trusts because they do not serve discrete areas of population.

This information is not held for foundation trusts, special health authorities or arms length bodies.

### NHS: Data Protection

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will list the titles of all items of guidance *(a)* the Information Centre for Health and Social Care and *(b)* the NHS Business Services Authority has issued to its staff on the handling of personally-identifiable data; if he will place copies of these items of guidance in the Library; and if he will make a statement; [170074]

(2) what recent assessment the *(a)* Information Centre for Health and Social Care and *(b)* NHS Business Services Authority has made of the security of the personally-identifiable data it collects. [170075]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### NHS: Databases

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances *(a)* a GP's surgery and *(b)* another NHS organisation may pass on a patient's personal data to a third party. [168995]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Patient personal data is held by national health service organisations under legal and ethical obligations of confidentiality and subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. It may be passed to third parties when identifying details have been removed so the patient cannot be identified; or in accordance with statutory provisions or where required under court order; or where the public interest is such that obligations of confidentiality and the competing public interest in the provision of confidential health services need to be overridden, for example serious crime or child protection; or with the consent of the patient concerned.

Guidance to the NHS is provided in the Department's publication 'Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice' published in November 2003 is available in the Library.

### NHS: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 615WA, on NHS finance, for what reason additional cash limits were given to NHS trusts in 2006-07. [169871]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In 2006-07 the informal system of cash brokerage and planned support that had previously operated across the national health service, was replaced for primary care trusts (PCTs) by a formal system of cash limit additions. The requirements for cash limit additions were identified in conjunction with strategic health authorities, and were provided to finance historic working capital issues that had previously been financed informally through the cash brokerage system. Cash limit additions will be reversed over time in line with financial recovery in the PCTs.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 615WA, on NHS finance, which cash limit deductions were applied to NHS trusts in 2006-07, broken down by trust. [169872]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Cash limit adjustments were not applied to national health service trusts in 2006-07 in respect of these transactions.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 145WS, on primary care trusts (revenue allocations), for what reason the extension has been granted; what steps he has taken to allow primary care trusts to enter into three year agreements with local partners; and what assessment he has made of any risks primary care trusts may incur as a result of the delay in their funding settlement. [169877]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) has requested additional time to finalise its review of the weighted capitation formula to ensure that its proposed recommendations on changes to the formula are as robust as possible. This extension was granted to ACRA, as it is important that the allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) are fair and equitable.

As a result of granting ACRA an extension to its work programme, it was not possible to announce three-year allocations to PCTs in time to give them sufficient planning time. Therefore, it was decided to make a one-year allocation to PCTs for 2008-09.

The operating framework, due to be published in December, will set out the national priorities for the year ahead in the context of the comprehensive spending review (CSR), which set out the high level priorities for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Together with the high level growth figures announced in the CSR, this should allow each PCT to make reasonable assumptions for their longer term plans.

Therefore, even though PCTs have received a one-year allocation only for 2008-09, they should still be able to plan financially and it should not prevent PCTs from entering into three-year agreements with local partners.

The announcement of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 revenue allocations will be made by summer 2008.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 145WS, on primary care trusts (revenue allocations) what the terms of reference are of the review of the formula in support of revenue allocations. [169952]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) continually oversees the development of the weighted capitation formula. Prior to each revenue allocation round, ACRA carries out a work programme to support the allocations to primary care trusts. The main items on ACRA's current work programme cover:

a review of the market forces factor;

a review of the need element of the formula; and

determining a robust population base for the allocations.

ACRA's terms of reference are:

to advise the Secretary of State for Health on the distribution of resources across primary and secondary care, in support of the goal of equitable access to health care for all; and

to develop and apply methods which are as objective and needs-based as available data and techniques permit.

ACRA is taking forward its work programme under these terms of reference.

In addition, the objective for the review of the need element of the formula is to contribute to:

equal opportunity of access to health care for people at equal risk; and

the reduction in avoidable health inequalities.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest estimate is of the likely NHS surplus in 2007-08. [170181]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As stated in 'The Quarter', released on 30 November 2007, the projected aggregate surplus for national health service organisations, excluding foundation trusts, at quarter two is £1,789 million (£1.789 billion).

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to manage the risk to the NHS of the drop in its funding growth rate from 2008-09. [170195]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are a number of factors that mean the national health service is well positioned to manage with a reduced rate of funding growth while continuing to deliver significant improvements to patient care.

In the years covered by the 2007 comprehensive spending review (2008-09 to 2010-11) the NHS will receive real terms growth of 4 per cent. per year. This is significantly higher than the long-term average of around 3 per cent., so we should not consider the next three years as a period of low growth. On top of the growth in funding, the NHS will deliver annual average value for money improvements of 3 per cent., and the cash released will be available to improve patient care. The Department will publish the value for money agreement in December, which will support local delivery of the savings. In addition, the NHS is now in a sound financial position and better able to cope with reduction in the growth in funding.

## NHS: ICT

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who has been the senior official responsible for user involvement in the National Programme for IT/Connecting for Health Programme since its inception, with the periods for which each official was responsible. [172487]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Since May 2005 to date, Mr. Richard Jeavons, Director of Service Implementation and senior responsible officer (SRO) for service implementation has had this responsibility, reporting to the NHS Chief Executive and overall SRO for the national programme for information technology. Previously the role was filled by Mr. Alan Burns (November 2004 to May 2005), and Professor Aidan Halligan (April 2004 to November 2004). Prior to April 2004 responsibility for arrangements for engaging with key stakeholders across the NHS was part of the responsibility of the then overall SRO for the programme, Sir John Pattison.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the date was on which each renegotiation of his Department's Connecting for Health contracts was completed; and what the additional costs were arising out of each renegotiation. [169955]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There has been no renegotiation of primary supplier contracts let by NHS Connecting for Health under the national programme for information technology. There have been 'resets' of the contracts within the original terms and conditions to accommodate changes in subcontractor, development and deployment dates and, in one case, novation of the contract. All these changes continue to support the evolving needs of the national health service, but there has been no substantial change in contract scope or risk allocation. Suppliers continue to be responsible for delivering the overall requirements against the original terms and conditions, and within the original costs.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made on its review of health informatics; with which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations his Department has had discussions for the purposes of contributing to the review; what the content was of these discussions, when he intends to publish the results of the review; whether he intends to consult on any recommendations contained in the review; what interim findings have emerged from the review to date; and if he will make a statement. [170093]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The informatics review is in the initial stages of analysing collected data and information, and the process of consulting stakeholders has begun. To date the review team has met with staff from the information centre for health and social care, the Department's Information Services Division and NHS Connecting for Health, suppliers, and the national health service to discuss informatics issues and by its conclusions will have consulted a wide range of other stakeholders.

The informatics review is planned to report in alignment with the next stage review being led by my noble Friend the Lord Darzi. So far there have been no interim findings.

## NHS: Negligence

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to answer question 167022, on the NHS Litigation Authority, tabled by the hon. Member for Billericay on 19 November. [172850]

**Ann Keen:** A reply was given on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1438W.

## NHS: Personal Records

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the version of the patient record that can be accessed by the patient can be invisibly edited so that selected information can be removed at the patient's request, while remaining visible in the summary care record accessible to clinicians. [169178]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We are aware that both clinicians and patients may find functionality of this nature desirable and we are considering whether the clinician's sealed envelope functionality that is to be deployed in detailed care records might also be used in the summary care record.

## NHS: Procurement

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions over the last 12 months NHS suppliers have been required to resupply stock at their own expense. [170615]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Suppliers to the national health service through NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency or NHS Supply Chain national framework agreements are required to adhere to terms and conditions. It is part of these standard terms and conditions that if goods are not delivered within specified timescales, the NHS body that placed the contract is able to purchase replacement goods from an alternative source and recover any difference in cost from the contracted supplier.

It is also possible that suppliers may be asked to re-supply goods at their own expense, for example where the original goods supplied are damaged, faulty or sub-standard.

### NHS: Property

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS properties are vacant and awaiting final disposition. [170624]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally.

### NHS: Reform

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to make *(a)* agendas and *(b)* other papers of each Government Professional Health Reform Implementation Programme work stream meeting available on his Department's website in advance of each such meeting. [169775]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** All working groups have agreed to make agendas, papers and minutes of meetings available after working group meetings, where agreed by working group members. It would not be appropriate to publish papers widely before members of working groups have had the opportunity to comment on them.

### NHS: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions NHS contractors have been required to provide repairs at their own expense over the last 12 months. [170539]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Nutrition: Medical Equipment

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether nutritional screening equipment for use in the NHS is purchased through the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. [170077]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Nutritional screening equipment for use in the national health service is not purchased through the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency.

### Obesity

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Quality Outcome Framework for GPs will be reviewed; whether there are plans to make tackling obesity part of the framework; and if he will make a statement. [171690]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Quality and Outcome Framework (QOF) is kept under ongoing review and discussions between the General Practitioner Committee (GPC) and NHS Employers (NHSE) over contractual matters, including QOF continue to take place. Arrangements for improving the health of patients and delivering heath services for key components of the general practitioner contract, are covered by essential, additional and enhanced services as well as the QOF. Decisions on the most appropriate interventions detailed by general practice form part of the on going negotiations between GPC and NHSE. It would be inappropriate for the Department to pre-empt the outcome of those confidential contract discussions.

### Paramedical Staff: Private Sector

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on underwriting indemnity insurance for private sector paramedic providers; and if he will make a statement. [170544]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There is no departmental policy held on underwriting indemnity insurance for private sector paramedic providers. This is a matter for the private ambulance providers to manage themselves.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on competition in service provision by paramedics; and if he will make a statement. [170545]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has not issued guidance on competition in service provision by paramedics. It is up to the NHS Ambulance Trust locally to decide how to resource its front-line response to meet demand.

The Department, has however made clear that in commissioning patient transport services, contracts/service level agreements with providers should set out standards and requirements relating to a range of areas to ensure high quality, safe services.

### Part IX Drug Tariff

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many errors, inaccuracies and omissions were identified by industry within his Department of Health's new part IX drug tariff categories; and if he will make a statement. [171196]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Following publication of arrangements under the Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to Primary Care revised proposals on 6 September 2007, the Department received a number of representations that indicated that some errors highlighted in the item classification table in the November 2006 consultation had not been corrected in the latest published consultation document.

In summary, 478 editorial changes have been requested; the majority could be considered errors, for example incorrect reference codes.

In addition, 124 omissions have been identified mainly as a result of companies change of ownership during the course of this consultation.

Departmental officials are currently considering the best way to incorporate these corrections. All stakeholders will be advised once a decision has been made.

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department will publish the revised categories for part IX of the drug tariff, which have been amended as a result of corrections and revisions submitted by industry prior to 9 November 2007. [171199]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Departmental officials are currently reviewing the best way to incorporate the corrections and revisions received from all stakeholders. When a decision has been reached all stakeholders will be advised.

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what redress companies will have in the event of a dispute about the accuracy of a product's classification under proposed changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff; [165372]

(2) what changes he proposes to make to the classification in Part IX of the Drug Tariff; what consultation he proposes to hold on changes to this classification; and if he will make a statement; [165819]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed classification of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff on the introduction of innovative treatments in this field; and if he will make a statement. [165820]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The consultation entitled "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care. Revised Proposals" sets out the proposed changes to the classification of Part IX stoma and incontinence appliances. Copies of the consultation are available in the Library and is also available at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_078135

The consultation is the mechanism through which interested parties may comment on these proposals. Companies are encouraged to advise of errors or suggestions during the consultation which runs until 28 December 2007.

One of the stated objectives of the Part IX review is the facilitation of innovative solutions. Views are sought on this by way of the consultation process and we have been reliant on the responses of stakeholders, including industry, in relation to the effects of these proposals may have. This in ongoing until the end of the consultation.

## Patient Choice Schemes

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of hospital appointments were made using Choose and Book in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust. [164059]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table gives the percentage of general practitioners referrals to first consultant out-patient appointments booked using Choose and Book in September 2007, broken down by primary care trust (PCT). The overall percentage was 39 per cent. rising to 47 per cent. in October 2007 (for which final results are not yet available by PCT).

| *PCT name* | *PCT code* | *Choose and Book Utilisation September 2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan | 5HG | 34 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 5C2 | 35 |
| Barnet | 5A9 | 25 |
| Barnsley | 5JE | 80 |
| Bassetlaw | 5ET | 70 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 5FL | 20 |
| Bedfordshire | 5P2 | 35 |
| Berkshire East Teaching | 5QG | 27 |
| Berkshire West | 5QF | 39 |
| Bexley Care Trust | TAK | 40 |
| Birmingham East and North | 5PG | 40 |
| Blackburn with Darwen Teaching | 5CC | 44 |
| Blackpool | 5HP | 65 |
| Bolton | 5HQ | 22 |
| Bournemouth and Poole Teaching | 5QN | 62 |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching | 5NY | 43 |
| Brent Teaching | 5K5 | 33 |
| Brighton and Hove City Teaching | 5LQ | 31 |
| Bristol Teaching | 5QJ | 31 |
| Bromley | 5A7 | 16 |
| Buckinghamshire | 5QD | 15 |
| Bury | 5JX | 53 |
| Calderdale | 5J6 | 54 |
| Cambridgeshire | 5PP | 23 |
| Camden | 5K7 | 27 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire | 5NP | 42 |
| Central Lancashire | 5NG | 44 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 5C3 | 75 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 5QP | 43 |
| County Durham | 5ND | 46 |
| Coventry Teaching | 5MD | 79 |
| Croydon | 5K9 | 34 |
| Cumbria | 5NE | 35 |
| Darlington | 5J9 | 44 |
| Derby City | 5N7 | 68 |
| Derbyshire County | 5N6 | 68 |
| Devon | 5QQ | 52 |
| Doncaster | 5N5 | 66 |
| Dorset | 5QM | 55 |
| Dudley | 5PE | 35 |
| Ealing | 5HX | 35 |
| East and North Hertfordshire | 5P3 | 8 |
| East Lancashire | 5NH | 53 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 5NW | 26 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald | 5P7 | 23 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching | 5QA | 39 |

| *PCT name* | *PCT code* | *Choose and Book Utilisation September 2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Enfield | 5C1 | 32 |
| Gateshead | 5KF | 32 |
| Gloucestershire | 5QH | 39 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching | 5PR | 32 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 5A8 | 39 |
| Halton and St Helens | 5NM | 28 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 5H1 | 36 |
| Hampshire | 5QC | 36 |
| Haringey Teaching | 5C9 | 23 |
| Harrow | 5K6 | 46 |
| Hartlepool | 5D9 | 48 |
| Hastings and Rother | 5P8 | 17 |
| Havering | 5A4 | 65 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching | 5MX | 35 |
| Herefordshire | 5CN | 39 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale | 5NQ | 49 |
| Hillingdon | 5AT | 21 |
| Hounslow | 5HY | 4 |
| Hull Teaching | 5NX | 60 |
| Isle of Wight Healthcare | 5QT | 19 |
| Islington | 5K8 | 44 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5LA | 45 |
| Kingston | 5A5 | 44 |
| Kirklees | 5N2 | 32 |
| Knowsley | 5J4 | 38 |
| Lambeth | 5LD | 36 |
| Leeds | 5N1 | 4 |
| Leicester City Teaching | 5PC | 54 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland | 5PA | 43 |
| Lewisham | 5LF | 0 |
| Lincolnshire Teaching | 5N9 | 41 |
| Liverpool | 5NL | 46 |
| Luton Teaching | 5GC | 0 |
| Manchester | 5NT | 34 |
| Medway Teaching | 5L3 | 48 |
| Mid Essex | 5PX | 24 |
| Middlesbrough | 5KM | 48 |
| Milton Keynes | 5CQ | 87 |
| Newcastle | 5D7 | 28 |
| Newham | 5C5 | 54 |
| Norfolk | 5PQ | 29 |
| North East Essex | 5PW | 36 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 5AN | 38 |
| North Lancashire | 5NF | 31 |
| North Lincolnshire | 5EF | 22 |
| North Somerset | 5M8 | 32 |
| North Staffordshire | 5PH | 45 |
| North Tees | 5E1 | 38 |
| North Tyneside | 5D8 | 33 |
| North Yorkshire and York | 5NV | 34 |
| Northamptonshire Teaching | 5PD | 78 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | TAC | 25 |
| Nottingham City | 5EM | 56 |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching | 5N8 | 66 |
| Oldham | 5J5 | 82 |
| Oxfordshire | 5QE | 70 |
| Peterborough | 5PN | 26 |
| Plymouth Teaching | 5F1 | 59 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching | 5FE | 24 |
| Redbridge | 5NA | 60 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 5QR | 51 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | 5M6 | 38 |
| Rotherham | 5H8 | 42 |
| Salford Teaching | 5F5 | 43 |
| Sandwell | 5PF | 47 |
| Sefton | 5NJ | 26 |
| Sheffield | 5N4 | 25 |
| Shropshire County | 5M2 | 35 |
| Solihull | TAM | 34 |
| Somerset | 5QL | 78 |
| South Birmingham | 5M1 | 29 |
| South East Essex | 5P1 | 31 |
| South Gloucestershire | 5A3 | 30 |
| South Staffordshire | 5PK | 36 |
| South Tyneside | 5KG | 52 |
| South West Essex Teaching | 5PY | 23 |
| Southampton City | 5L1 | 44 |
| Southwark | 5LE | 40 |
| Stockport | 5F7 | 78 |
| Stoke on Trent Teaching | 5PJ | 36 |
| Suffolk | 5PT | 14 |
| Sunderland Teaching | 5KL | 76 |
| Surrey | 5P5 | 35 |
| Sutton and Merton | 5M7 | 24 |
| Swindon | 5K3 | 42 |
| Tameside and Glossop | 5LH | 44 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 5MK | 42 |
| Torbay Care Trust | TAL | 57 |
| Tower Hamlets | 5C4 | 78 |
| Trafford | 5NR | 21 |
| Wakefield | 5N3 | 27 |
| Walsall Teaching | 5M3 | 27 |
| Waltham Forest | 5NC | 74 |
| Wandsworth | 5LG | 21 |
| Warrington | 5J2 | 22 |
| Warwickshire | 5PM | 50 |
| West Cheshire | 5NN | 42 |
| West Essex | 5PV | 27 |
| West Hertfordshire | 5P4 | 20 |
| West Kent | 5P9 | 22 |
| West Sussex Teaching | 5P6 | 32 |
| Westminster | 5LC | 33 |
| Wiltshire | 5QK | 33 |
| Wirral | 5NK | 62 |
| Wolverhampton City | 5MV | 30 |
| Worcestershire | 5PL | 26 |
| England | Total | 39 |

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the Information Centre for Health and Social Care has made in its project supporting the patient choice agenda, as stated on the Our Priorities for 2007-08 section of its website; what outcome measures which can be used to support choice have been identified; and if he will make a statement. [170033]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Good progress has been made in supporting the patient choice agenda. The Information Centre for health and social care is making a substantial contribution to the new national health service choices website. The Information Centre also provides information on a number of outcome measures, in particular:

- an online database of general practitioner practice results under the Quality and Outcomes Framework, available at www.qof.ic.nhs.uk;
- provision of information for the Healthcare Commission's web tool that enables heart patients to get easy access to information giving reliable facts and figures about survival rates; and
- a website to give parents and carers of children with congenital heart disease information to help them make decisions about their child's treatment, including survival rates for the most common types of treatment.

## Pharmacy: Standards

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect of pharmaceutical regulations on dispensing doctors' surgeries; and if he will make a statement. [169252]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 contain provisions that relate to both community pharmacy and dispensing doctors. These provisions include the procedures that are to be followed by primary care trusts in deciding whether a new provider can enter the market and the impact of any decision on existing local services. The operation of these provisions is kept under review and discussed with the various representative bodies as necessary.

## Prescriptions: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to agree the model for the smartcards required for the second phase of electronic prescribing. [167662]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In the near future. The model will conform with the commitments given in the care record guarantee, which requires access to patient-identifiable information to be controlled by use of individual user smartcards, a valid pass code, role-based access controls and a user profile linked to the organisation in which the user is working. Officials are now working with stakeholders to agree the operational detail which will underpin these requirements and this work is expected to complete shortly.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will wait until all system suppliers have received NHS Connecting for Health accreditation before he moves to the second stage of live electronic prescribing. [167785]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Programme management best practice recommends an incremental approach to implementation for large-scale information technology-enabled change programmes. This approach was adopted for the electronic prescription service (EPS) release 1 and we intend to adopt the same best-practice approach for release 2.

A number of initial implementer primary care trusts (PCTs) have been identified for deployment of release 2 of the EPS. Following achievement of technical accreditation, systems will be rolled out on a limited basis in these PCTs prior to wider accreditation and national deployment.

## Primary Care Trusts: Finance

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial position of each primary care trust was at the most recent date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [170425]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is shown in the following table.

*PCTs 2007-08 quarter 2 forecast outturn position*

| *PCT name* | *2007-08 Q2 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit) (£000)* |
|---|---:|
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan primary care trust PCT | 2,250 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 15,900 |
| Barnet PCT | 0 |
| Barnsley PCT | 1,878 |
| Bassetlaw PCT | 2,750 |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 4,736 |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 0 |
| Berkshire East Teaching PCT | 0 |
| Berkshire West PCT | (3,846) |
| Bexley PCT | 0 |
| Birmingham East and North PCT | 3,200 |
| Blackburn with Darwen Teaching PCT | 4,900 |
| Blackpool PCT | 3,165 |
| Bolton PCT | 1,000 |
| Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT | 5,783 |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT | 3,277 |
| Brent Teaching PCT | (4,000) |
| Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT | 3,000 |
| Bristol Teaching PCT | 3,701 |
| Bromley PCT | 0 |
| Buckinghamshire PCT | (10,001) |
| Bury PCT | 250 |
| Calderdale PCT | 1,300 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 0 |
| Camden PCT | 2,008 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 1,011 |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 6,360 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 5,000 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 2,725 |
| County Durham PCT | 8,000 |

*PCTs 2007-08 quarter 2 forecast outturn position*

| *PCT name* | *2007-08 Q2 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit) (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Coventry Teaching PCT | 4,026 |
| Croydon PCT | 3,550 |
| Cumbria PCT | 139 |
| Darlington PCT | 0 |
| Derby City PCT | 2,300 |
| Derbyshire County PCT | 12,991 |
| Devon PCT | 3,695 |
| Doncaster PCT | 2,012 |
| Dorset PCT | 3,070 |
| Dudley PCT | 2,000 |
| Ealing PCT | 1,500 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 0 |
| East Lancashire PCT | 11,068 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 1,729 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 0 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT | 4,000 |
| Enfield PCT | (11,078) |
| Gateshead PCT | 0 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 2,798 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT | 0 |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 357 |
| Halton and St. Helens PCT | 290 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 10,000 |
| Hampshire PCT | 0 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 1,876 |
| Harrow PCT | 0 |
| Hartlepool PCT | 250 |
| Hastings and Rother PCT | 2,000 |
| Havering PCT | 0 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 9,680 |
| Herefordshire PCT | 675 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 3,430 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 0 |
| Hounslow PCT | (2,464) |
| Hull Teaching PCT | 1,856 |
| Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT | 1,250 |
| Islington PCT | 0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 5,042 |
| Kingston PCT | 1,619 |
| Kirklees PCT | 2,650 |
| Knowsley PCT | 1,400 |
| Lambeth PCT | 1,412 |
| Leeds PCT | 0 |
| Leicester City Teaching PCT | 2,194 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 0 |
| Lewisham PCT | 0 |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | 4,144 |
| Liverpool PCT | 17,752 |
| Luton Teaching PCT | 0 |
| Manchester PCT | 2,000 |
| Medway Teaching PCT | 3,207 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 526 |
| Middlesbrough | 891 |
| Milton Keynes PCT | 3,000 |
| Newcastle PCT | 500 |
| Newham PCT | 2,400 |
| Norfolk PCT | 0 |
| North East Essex PCT | 0 |
| North East Lincolnshire PCT | 1,052 |
| North Lancashire PCT | 456 |
| North Lincolnshire PCT | 952 |
| North Somerset PCT | (12,000) |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 1,981 |
| North Tyneside PCT | 0 |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | (19,179) |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | 4,178 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 0 |
| Nottingham City PCT | 6,519 |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT | 10,000 |
| Oldham PCT | 1,500 |
| Oxfordshire PCT | 9,000 |
| Peterborough PCT | 1,500 |
| Plymouth Teaching PCT | 5,046 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 8,808 |
| Redbridge PCT | 18,200 |
| Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 884 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 0 |
| Rotherham PCT | 1,651 |
| Salford Teaching PCT | 1,000 |
| Sandwell PCT | 1,500 |
| Sefton PCT | 1,000 |
| Sheffield PCT | 0 |
| Shropshire County PCT | 1,088 |
| Solihull Care Trust | 777 |
| Somerset PCT | 5,110 |
| South Birmingham PCT | 10,000 |
| South East Essex PCT | 0 |
| South Gloucestershire PCT | 1,103 |
| South Staffordshire PCT | 6,802 |
| South Tyneside PCT | 0 |
| South West Essex Teaching PCT | 12,719 |
| Southampton City PCT | 2,000 |
| Southwark PCT | 0 |
| Stockport PCT | 1,756 |
| Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT | 8,000 |
| Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT | 2,023 |
| Suffolk PCT | 0 |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT | 0 |
| Surrey PCT | 0 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | (3,952) |
| Swindon PCT | 935 |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 2,000 |
| Telford and Wrekin PCT | 11,420 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 7,881 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 3,500 |
| Trafford PCT | 880 |
| Wakefield District PCT | 2,223 |
| Walsall Teaching PCT | 9,436 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | (814) |
| Wandsworth PCT | 6,423 |
| Warrington PCT | 1,400 |
| Warwickshire PCT | (3,799) |
| West Cheshire PCT | 1,600 |

*PCTs 2007-08 quarter 2 forecast outturn position*

| PCT name | 2007-08 Q2 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit) (£000) |
|---|---|
| West Essex PCT | 0 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 0 |
| West Kent PCT | 0 |
| West Sussex Teaching PCT | 0 |
| Westminster PCT | 8,685 |
| Wiltshire PCT | (22,000) |
| Wirral PCT | 10,000 |
| Wolverhampton City PCT | 16,753 |
| Worcestershire PCT | 2,000 |

*Source:*
Department of Health financial monitoring

## Queen's Hospital Romford: Food

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department on food outlets at the new Queen's Hospital, Romford. [170850]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not held centrally. It is for individual national health service organisations to determine the level and type of refreshments provided for people visiting their relatives, friends or attending out-patient clinics at NHS establishments.

## Queen's Hospital Romford: Private Finance Initiative

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what annual payments are required to be made by *(a)* Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS hospitals trust and *(b)* other NHS bodies under the private finance initiative contract for the Queen's hospital in Romford; to whom such payments are made; and what the duration of the contract is. [170427]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Based on the latest service payment invoice for the period covering the quarter to 15 January 2008, the annualised value of the service payments is approximately £40.7 million per year. This figure excludes value added tax (VAT), but VAT is reclaimable under current national health service arrangements.

The payments are made to Catalyst Healthcare (Romford) Ltd.

The contract term is 36 years, covering the construction and operational period, which expires on 15 January 2040.

## Retirement

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department requires its employees to retire at the latest at 65 years of age; and if he will make a statement. [169618]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The retirement age for employees of the Department, as of 1 October 2006, is 65 years of age. Employees who reach age 60 after 1 October 2006 can elect whether to retire or remain in employment for a period of their choosing, up to age 65. Employees also have the right to request to work beyond age 65. Agreement will normally be given unless there are valid business reasons for turning down a request. Employees making such requests are subject to the usual requirements of conduct and capability to carry out their duties. Extensions after age 65 are not normally agreed for more than one year at a time.

## Social Services: Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 838-9W, on social services: finance, whether the official steering group is the same as the review of the social care funding group announced by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) on 30 March 2006. [172898]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The official steering group, led by Her Majesty's Treasury, is not the same as the Department of Health Comprehensive Spending Review social care working group, which was announced by the then Parliamentary-under Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne), on 30 March 2006.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the review of social care funding group announced by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) on 30 March 2006 made of *(a)* the long-term costs and cost pressures associated with social care, *(b)* who should pay for social care services, *(c)* secondary products relevant to long-term care and *(d)* options for whole system reform. [172931]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department's Comprehensive Spending Review Social Care Working Group considered a range of issues around the long term funding of social care. The Group's work was factored in to the Departments plans for social care funding in relation to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

## St. George's Hospital Hornchurch: Hospital Beds

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average bed occupancy rate was at St. George's hospital, Hornchurch in each month of the last three years. [170426]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not held in the format requested. Information on average bed occupancy rates are only held at trust level. The following table shows average daily bed occupancy rates at North East London Mental Health Trust, which includes St. George's hospital, for the last three years.

| | Occupancy rate (occupied/available beds x 100 per cent.) |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 92.7 |
| 2005-06 | 93.1 |
| 2004-05 | 97.1 |

*Source:*
Department of Health from KH03

## Surgery: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled at each London hospital within *(a)* seven days and *(b)* 24 hours of the appointment in each of the last five years. [169375]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in London, 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 2007-08 Q1 only*

| | | *Number of last minute cancs for non clinical reasons* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Org ID* | *Name* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08*[1] |
| | England | 67,254 | 66,303 | 68,569 | 60,803 | 52,005 | 12,492 |
| RF4 | Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | 2,168 | 2,147 | 2,426 | 1,566 | 906 | 140 |
| RVL | Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | 1,346 | 404 | 399 | 279 | 294 | 66 |
| RNJ | Barts and The London NHS Trust | 928 | 593 | 502 | 506 | 531 | 96 |
| RG3 | Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust | 324 | 425 | 289 | 214 | 181 | 32 |
| RQM | Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust | 185 | 151 | 180 | 115 | 103 | 41 |
| RC3 | Ealing Hospital NHS Trust | 267 | 206 | 140 | 142 | 124 | 46 |
| RVR | Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust | 353 | 698 | 608 | 281 | 270 | 121 |
| RP4 | Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust | 290 | 143 | 119 | 146 | 115 | 30 |
| RJ1 | Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust | 554 | 450 | 739 | 884 | 866 | 287 |
| RQN | Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust | 504 | 390 | 688 | 625 | 614 | 160 |
| RQX | Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 52 | 68 | 24 | 45 | 50 | 20 |
| RJZ | King's College Hospital NHS Trust | 318 | 180 | 227 | 209 | 153 | 51 |
| RAX | Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | 140 | 223 | 168 | 182 | 116 | 45 |
| RJ6 | Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust | 549 | 678 | 226 | 129 | 50 | 11 |
| RP6 | Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 74 | 74 | 62 | 292 | 151 | 72 |
| RNH | Newham University Hospital NHS Trust | 226 | 156 | 118 | 79 | 146 | 46 |
| RV8 | North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | 617 | 433 | 542 | 480 | 457 | 88 |
| RGZ | Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust | 199 | 75 | 91 | 52 | 78 | 24 |
| RT3 | Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust | 244 | 190 | 183 | 233 | 177 | 43 |
| RAL | Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | 341 | 285 | 306 | 460 | 268 | 48 |
| RAN | Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust | 151 | 154 | 97 | 144 | 167 | 54 |
| RJ7 | St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | 354 | 765 | 1,065 | 753 | 666 | 143 |
| RBN | St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust | 171 | 126 | 192 | 159 | 193 | 45 |
| RJ5 | St. Mary's NHS Trust | 97 | 365 | 367 | 303 | 192 | 25 |
| RAS | The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust | 360 | 247 | 137 | 150 | 103 | 17 |
| RJ2 | The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | 42 | 199 | 187 | 136 | 165 | 25 |
| RPY | The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust | 68 | 83 | 141 | 72 | 79 | 14 |
| RKE | The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | 134 | 87 | 102 | 122 | 111 | 34 |
| RRV | University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 157 | 272 | 483 | 547 | 605 | 161 |
| RFW | West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | 105 | 116 | 52 | 69 | 28 | 30 |
| RGC | Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust | 332 | 389 | 494 | 312 | 261 | 36 |

[1] Q1 only

*Notes:*

The table shows the organisations as they existed, at the time of each collection.

A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation.

Some common non-clinical reasons for cancellations by the hospital include: ward beds unavailable; surgeon unavailable; emergency case needing theatre; theatre list over-ran; equipment failure; admin error; anaesthetist unavailable; theatre staff unavailable; and critical care bed unavailable.

An operation which is rescheduled to a time within 24 hours of the original scheduled operation should be recorded as a postponement and not as a cancellation. The QMCO collection does not record the number of postponements.

*Source:*

Department of Health dataset QMCO

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 11 December 2007*

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Data Protection

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he read the report, Independent Review of Government Information Assurance; and what steps he has taken in response to the report. [168805]

**Edward Miliband** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The discussion document on the Independent Review of Government Information Assurance, published for the Information Assurance Conference on 27 June 2007, helped to inform development of the Government's Information Assurance Strategy, published on the same day. Information Assurance procedures within departments and agencies are being reviewed by the Cabinet Secretary, 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179.

### Retirement

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office requires its employees to retire at the latest at 65 years of age; and if he will make a statement. [169619]

**Gillian Merron:** The Cabinet Office has a retirement age of 65 for its employees. Employees who wish to remain beyond that age may exercise their statutory right to request to remain under the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. Requests to remain beyond the age of 65 are considered against clearly defined criteria that meet business needs as well as ensuring fair and equal treatment for all employees.

The Department's retirement policy recognises the wealth of valuable experience that all employees can bring to the organisation and supports its business by providing a skilled and professional work force with opportunities for development and advancement, irrespective of age.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Political Parties: Public Appointments

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Prime Minister what appointments to the House of Lords arising from *(a)* nominations from political parties, *(b)* non-party political nominations and *(c)* by other means, indicating in each case whether nominations were made by (i) the Prime Minister, (ii) the Leader of the Opposition, (iii) the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, (iv) leaders of other parties and (v) others. [173092]

**The Prime Minister:** Appointments to the House of Lords are announced in *The London Gazette* and affiliation is a matter of public record.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Labour Party: Donors

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will make a statement on the timetable for the investigation by the Electoral Commission into whether there has been any failure to comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in connection with a number of donations made to the Labour party announced on 26 November. [171468]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it opened its inquiry on 27 November and formally referred the matter to the Metropolitan Police Service on 30 November.

### Meetings: Political Parties Panel

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of meetings held between the Political Parties Panel and the Electoral Commission held since June 2001. [171470]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has done so.

### Political Impartiality

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether restrictions apply to the staff of the Electoral Commission *(a)* joining political parties, *(b)* donating to political parties, *(c)* donating to registered third parties and *(d)* contributing to trade union political funds. [171471]

**Peter Viggers:** Under the terms of schedule 1 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 any member of staff, except the chief executive, may be a member of a political party.

Under the Act, Electoral Commission staff are not permitted to make recordable donations to registered political parties or to recognised third parties.

The Electoral Commission informs me that there are no restrictions on its staff contributing to trade union political funds.

### Political Parties: Donors

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the Electoral Commission's policy is on the *(a)* publication and *(b)* other uses of lists of impermissible donors. [171454]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it is statutorily required under section 69 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to maintain a publicly available register of recordable donations. That register includes information on impermissible donations. The register is available on the Commission's website and at its offices.

The Commission uses the registered information on impermissible donations to inform periodic updates of its guidance.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has produced on the procedure and obligations applying to individuals making donations to political parties on behalf of third parties. [171469]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs that it publishes on its website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

'Donations and loans: guidance for political parties in Great Britain' which details the reporting requirements on donations to political parties, including those made on behalf of others.

### Political Parties: Trade Unions

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has provided on reporting aggregated trade union affiliation fees paid to a political party as a donation where each individual affiliation fee is below the £200 reporting threshold. [171388]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs that it publishes "Donations and loans: guidance for political parties in Great Britain" which includes the reporting requirements on aggregated donations. The guidance is available on the Commission's website at www.electoralcommission.org.uk

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what research the Electoral Commission has undertaken into trade union funding of the *(a)* Labour, *(b)* Conservative and Unionist and *(c)* Liberal Democrat Party. [171389]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it published a report in 2004 entitled "The Funding of Political Parties", which included information on funding provided by trade unions. Copies of this report are available in the House of Commons Library. The Commission publishes on its website, www.electoralcommission.org.uk, details of donations and loans to all political parties, including those reported from trade unions.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what estimate the Electoral Commission has made of the amount donated by trade union organisations to political parties, in *(a)* cash and *(b)* non-cash donations in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [171455]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that the information requested is as set out in the following table.

£

| | *Cash* | *Non-cash* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 11,782,225.00 | 203,595.02 |
| 2006 | 8,600,158.09 | 14,522.00 |

### Politicians: Trade Unions

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has given on declaration and registration of trade union sponsorship of *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* parliamentary candidates. [171387]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it produces guidance for Members of Parliament on their reporting requirements under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. A copy of the most recent version of the guidance, "Donations and loans: guidance for Members of Parliament", published in November 2006, has now been placed in the House of Commons Library. The guidance covers the types of donations, including sponsorship, that must be reported to the Commission.

Guidance for parties, candidates and agents is provided to those involved in elections to Westminster, the European Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly, National Assembly for Wales and for all local government elections.

## OLYMPICS

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics on how many occasions she has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171306]

**Tessa Jowell:** Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

## WALES

### Ministers: Salaries

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the Wales Office pays any proportion of his Ministerial salary. [173399]

**Mr. Hain:** Ministerial salaries are paid in accordance with the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. Details of ministerial salaries are available at http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/m06.pdf and in the Library of the House.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Leader of the House whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by her Office in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172438]

**Helen Goodman:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office for these purposes. The information requested will be contained in the response given by that Department.

### Labour Party: Finance

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Leader of the House what declarations she has made under the Ministerial Code in relation to donations received in relation to her deputy leadership of the Labour Party campaign; and to whom, and in respect of what donations, such declarations were made. [173089]

**Ms Harman:** Information was provided to the permanent secretary at the Department of Constitutional Affairs at the appropriate time and in line with the Ministerial Code.

### Public Bill Committees

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the effect of public bill committees on the legislative process. [172756]

**Helen Goodman:** The changes in procedure relating to the committee stage of Bills taken off the Floor of the House, including the renaming of standing committees on Bills by the more descriptive title of 'Public Bill Committees', which were agreed by the House on 1 November 2006, have been generally welcomed.

Oral evidence taking in Public Bill Committees began in January 2007. Four Bills which began their passage in session 2006-07 took such evidence, and in the current session it will now be standard practice for all programmed Government Bills starting in the Commons to hold sessions of oral evidence. The ability of such committees to take oral evidence before proceeding to clause by clause scrutiny has brought benefits to the consideration of Bills. Good co-operation between the Government and other representatives on the committee, and the House authorities, can maximise the effectiveness of the process. The power for such committees to receive written evidence is increasingly made use of by a range of organisations and individuals. The initial view is that these processes have helped to improve the opportunities for those outside Parliament to engage with the legislative process.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departments: Manpower

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the legal advisers working alongside the Government Equalities Office, as referred to in the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 609W, on Departments: manpower work exclusively for the Government Equalities Office. [171344]

**Barbara Follett:** The legal advisers identified as working alongside the Government Equalities Office in the answer of the 29 October 2007, were those working solely for the Government Equalities Office.

## TREASURY

### Arthritis: Death

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people *(a)* under 16 years of age and *(b)* 16 years and over died from rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997, broken down by Government Office Region. [172912]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked top reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 December 2007:*

> The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people *(a)* under 16 years of age and *(b)* 16 years and over died from rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997, broken down by Government Office Region. I am replying in her absence. (172912)
>
> The attached table provides *(a)* the number of deaths from juvenile rheumatoid arthritis in children under 16 and *(b)* rheumatoid arthritis in persons aged 16 and over, broken down by English Government Office Region from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number of deaths with a cause of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years) or rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)[1] English Government Office Region, 1997-2006[2,3]*

*Deaths (persons)*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *North East* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over) | 49 | 43 | 30 | 32 | 58 | 58 | 53 | 37 | 55 | 41 |
| All rheumatoid arthritis | 49 | 43 | 30 | 32 | 58 | 58 | 53 | 38 | 55 | 41 |
| *North West* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

*Table 1. Number of deaths with a cause of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years) or rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)[1] English Government Office Region, 1997-2006[2,3]*

*Deaths (persons)*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)** | 106 | 112 | 95 | 75 | 127 | 98 | 114 | 115 | 104 | 98 |
| **All rheumatoid arthritis** | 106 | 112 | 95 | 75 | 127 | 98 | 115 | 116 | 104 | 98 |
| *Yorkshire and The Humber* | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)** | 68 | 73 | 63 | 59 | 88 | 107 | 92 | 83 | 70 | 84 |
| **All rheumatoid arthritis** | 68 | 73 | 63 | 59 | 89 | 107 | 92 | 83 | 70 | 84 |
| *East Midlands* | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)** | 68 | 60 | 55 | 50 | 74 | 57 | 70 | 59 | 86 | 87 |
| **All rheumatoid arthritis** | 68 | 60 | 55 | 50 | 74 | 57 | 70 | 59 | 86 | 87 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)** | 90 | 81 | 76 | 84 | 109 | 114 | 113 | 85 | 92 | 95 |
| **All rheumatoid arthritis** | 90 | 81 | 77 | 84 | 109 | 114 | 113 | 85 | 92 | 95 |
| *East of England* | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)** | 72 | 83 | 70 | 81 | 99 | 112 | 101 | 85 | 67 | 78 |
| **All rheumatoid arthritis** | 72 | 83 | 70 | 81 | 99 | 112 | 102 | 85 | 67 | 78 |
| *London* | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)** | 65 | 56 | 66 | 43 | 82 | 76 | 58 | 58 | 53 | 33 |
| **All rheumatoid arthritis** | 65 | 56 | 66 | 43 | 82 | 76 | 58 | 58 | 53 | 33 |
| *South East* | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)** | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)** | 114 | 117 | 105 | 115 | 148 | 149 | 135 | 124 | 136 | 97 |
| **All rheumatoid arthritis** | 114 | 118 | 105 | 115 | 148 | 149 | 135 | 124 | 136 | 97 |
| *South West* | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)** | 101 | 89 | 86 | 90 | 132 | 103 | 108 | 93 | 107 | 81 |
| **All rheumatoid arthritis** | 101 | 89 | 86 | 90 | 132 | 103 | 108 | 93 | 107 | 81 |

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[1] Cause of death for juvenile rheumatoid arthritis was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 714.0-714.9 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes M05.0-M06.9, M080.0, M08.2, M08.3 and M08.9, where there was any mention of these codes on the death certificate, and the person was aged under 16 years. Cause of death for rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over) was defined using ICD-9 codes 714.0-714.9 and ICD-10 codes M05.0-M06.9, M08.0, M08.2, M08.3 and M08.9, where this was recorded as the underlying cause of death, and the person was aged 16 years or over. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.

[3] figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

### Aviation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172242]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced by his Department in each year since 1997; [173348]

(3) how many miles he and other Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172570]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury began collecting data on air mileage and emissions in 2006-07. The available data are set out in the table. It is not possible to give a further break down of ministerial air travel within these data. The Treasury offsets all official and ministerial air travel.[1]

| | *Kilometres* | *$CO_2$ emissions-tonnes* |
|---|---|---|
| Short-haul air travel by Ministers and officials (2006-07) | 3,146,011 | 944 |
| Long-haul air travel by Ministers and officials (2006-07) | 2,469,318 | 543 |
| Total for 2006-07 | 5,615,329 | 1,487 |

The Treasury has been measuring the carbon emissions for the office estate since 1999-2000. Figures from this date to 2005-06 are set out in the annex. Estate emissions for 2006-07 were 1,110,615 kg carbon. All electricity used is generated from renewable sources, and emissions have fallen by 19 per cent. during this period.[2]

The department also now estimates that in 2006-07 12 tonnes of carbon were emitted from road based travel and 19.3 tonnes of carbon were emitted from rail travel.[3]

Data for short haul air mileage and emissions from April 2007 to the current month will be available shortly.

[1] *Source:* DEFRA methodology: Government Carbon Offsetting Fund—an explanation of this methodology is available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

[2] The Building Research Establishment Ltd. provides annual analysis of energy consumption and emissions data for government departments and the Sustainable Development Commission. These data are used to monitor progress against government targets.

[3] The methodology used follows guidance set out for government departments by the Sustainable Development Commission and the July 2005 DEFRA "Greenhouse Gas conversion factors for Company Reporting".

### Bank of England: Public Appointments

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to appoint the Governor of the Bank of England to a second term in office; and if he will make a statement. [171921]

**Kitty Ussher:** Under the Bank of England Act 1998, the Queen is responsible for appointing the Governor of the Bank of England.

### Banks: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to speed up the payment of compensation to consumers who have experienced excessive overdraft charges; and if he will make a statement. [172748]

**Kitty Ussher:** There is currently a test case before the courts, taken by the Office of Fair Trading, to determine whether charges for unauthorised overdrafts come within the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999, and if so whether such charges are fair. This test case is expected to be heard in the new year. It would not be appropriate for the Chancellor to comment further while the case is ongoing.

### Cancer

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the incidence of cancer was in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* primary care trust area, *(c)* hospital trust area, *(d)* region and *(e)* social demographic group in the most recent period for which figures are available. [171907]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.[1]

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the incidence of cancer was in each (a) constituency, (b) primary care trust area, (c) hospitals trust area, (d) region and (e) social demographic group in the most recent period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (171907)

It is not possible to calculate incidence rates of cancer by (a) constituency and (c) hospitals trust area because the relevant populations are not available.

Incidence rates of all cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer in England by (b) primary care trust area and (d) government office region for 2004, the latest year for which figures are available, are given in Tables 1 and 2 below. Figures for government office regions are also available on the National Statistics website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Incidence rates of all cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer in England and Wales by (e) social demographic group are not available. However, the latest incidence rates for the three main cancers (breast, lung and prostate), which make up around 40 per cent of all cancers, by (e) social demographic group are given in Table 3 below.

*Table 1: Incidence rates[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by primary care trust[3] and sex, England, 2004*

| | *Males* | *Females* |
|---|---|---|
| *Primary care trust* | | |
| England | 480 | 454 |
| South Gloucestershire | 633 | 534 |
| Havering | 437 | 325 |
| Kingston | 422 | 344 |

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1.*[Official Report, 14 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 5MC.]*

*Table 1: Incidence rates[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by primary care trust[3] and sex, England, 2004*

| | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|
| Bromley | 344 | 310 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 407 | 342 |
| Barnet | 348 | 302 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 511 | 437 |
| Hillingdon | 371 | 296 |
| Enfield | 374 | 303 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 412 | 274 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 412 | 286 |
| Tower Hamlets | 388 | 334 |
| Newham | 392 | 332 |
| Haringey Teaching | 449 | 325 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 547 | 425 |
| Herefordshire | 448 | 430 |
| Milton Keynes | 642 | 495 |
| Newcastle | 604 | 465 |
| North Tyneside | 589 | 464 |
| Hartlepool | 609 | 402 |
| North Tees | 556 | 490 |
| North Lincolnshire | 493 | 416 |
| Nottingham City | 608 | 509 |
| Bassetlaw | 460 | 531 |
| Plymouth Teaching | 645 | 492 |
| Salford | 529 | 441 |
| Stockport | 574 | 438 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching | 578 | 526 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 633 | 525 |
| Luton | 401 | 335 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 402 | 272 |
| Rotherham | 614 | 520 |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan | 565 | 426 |
| Blackpool | 641 | 517 |
| Bolton | 532 | 438 |
| Ealing | 343 | 289 |
| Hounslow | 352 | 281 |
| Warrington | 538 | 403 |
| Knowsley | 712 | 539 |
| Oldham | 566 | 422 |
| Calderdale | 482 | 445 |
| Darlington | 529 | 415 |
| Barnsley | 553 | 439 |
| Bury | 534 | 420 |
| Swindon | 526 | 464 |
| Brent Teaching | 346 | 287 |
| Harrow | 317 | 289 |
| Camden | 412 | 378 |
| Islington | 454 | 318 |
| Croydon | 399 | 327 |
| Gateshead | 591 | 474 |
| South Tyneside | 567 | 501 |
| Sunderland Teaching | 564 | 495 |
| Middlesbrough | 620 | 461 |

*Table 1: Incidence rates[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by primary care trust[3] and sex, England, 2004*

| | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|
| Southampton City | 598 | 477 |
| Medway | 431 | 366 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 337 | 244 |
| Westminster | 375 | 284 |
| Lambeth | 445 | 363 |
| Southwark | 423 | 347 |
| Lewisham | 497 | 352 |
| Wandsworth | 454 | 386 |
| Tameside and Glossop | 548 | 436 |
| Brighton and Hove City | 374 | 307 |
| South Birmingham | 543 | 447 |
| Shropshire County | 560 | 413 |
| Walsall Teaching | 544 | 470 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | 399 | 331 |
| Sutton and Merton | 439 | 323 |
| North Somerset | 622 | 511 |
| Coventry Teaching | 526 | 438 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 517 | 385 |
| Wolverhampton City | 461 | 414 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching | 493 | 345 |
| Leeds | 562 | 453 |
| Kirklees | 506 | 394 |
| Wakefield District | 543 | 476 |
| Sheffield | 547 | 457 |
| Doncaster | 627 | 471 |
| Derbyshire County | 544 | 455 |
| Derby City | 566 | 454 |
| Nottinghamshire County | 565 | 475 |
| Lincolnshire | 559 | 449 |
| Redbridge | 323 | 282 |
| Waltham Forest | 323 | 262 |
| County Durham | 535 | 450 |
| Cumbria | 484 | 449 |
| North Lancashire | 590 | 470 |
| Central Lancashire | 574 | 426 |
| East Lancashire | 537 | 456 |
| Sefton | 632 | 458 |
| Wirral | 498 | 390 |
| Liverpool | 678 | 539 |
| Halton and St. Helens | 589 | 456 |
| Western Cheshire | 562 | 481 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire | 544 | 436 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale | 588 | 413 |
| Trafford | 612 | 471 |
| Manchester | 598 | 475 |
| North Yorkshire and York | 550 | 426 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 536 | 440 |
| Hull | 576 | 457 |
| Bradford and Airedale | 515 | 427 |

*Table 1: Incidence rates[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by primary care trust[3] and sex, England, 2004*

| | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|
| South East Essex | 401 | 351 |
| Bedfordshire | 379 | 363 |
| East and North Hertfordshire | 416 | 321 |
| West Hertfordshire | 294 | 259 |
| Surrey | 356 | 332 |
| West Sussex | 390 | 326 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald | 379 | 328 |
| Hastings and Rother | 299 | 303 |
| West Kent | 385 | 336 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland | 511 | 442 |
| Leicester City | 469 | 411 |
| Northamptonshire | 535 | 454 |
| Dudley | 458 | 411 |
| Sandwell | 465 | 367 |
| Birmingham East and North | 571 | 410 |
| North Staffordshire | 462 | 370 |
| Stoke on Trent | 505 | 461 |
| South Staffordshire | 520 | 422 |
| Worcestershire | 543 | 456 |
| Warwickshire | 528 | 432 |
| Peterborough | 532 | 421 |
| Cambridgeshire | 534 | 447 |
| Norfolk | 516 | 446 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney | 500 | 412 |
| Suffolk | 553 | 418 |
| West Essex | 385 | 281 |
| North East Essex | 377 | 325 |
| Mid Essex | 302 | 261 |
| South West Essex | 394 | 296 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent | 419 | 335 |
| Hampshire | 496 | 399 |
| Buckinghamshire | 573 | 481 |
| Oxfordshire | 591 | 480 |
| Berkshire West | 577 | 453 |
| Berkshire East | 576 | 458 |
| Gloucestershire | 532 | 451 |
| Bristol | 612 | 484 |
| Wiltshire | 630 | 493 |
| Somerset | 569 | 512 |
| Dorset | 673 | 490 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | 682 | 496 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 569 | 490 |
| Devon | 645 | 490 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 618 | 485 |
| Isle of Wight National Health Service | 531 | 475 |
| *Care Trust* | | |
| Northumberland | 560 | 456 |
| Bexley | 372 | 347 |
| Torbay | 562 | 507 |
| Solihull | 578 | 474 |

[1] Directly age standardised to the European Standard Population.

[2] All cancers, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, are classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10): C00-C97 excluding C44.

[3] Boundaries as at 1 October 2006.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics.

*Table 2: Incidence rate[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by Government office region and sex, England, 2004*

| | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|
| England | 480 | 454 |
| North East | 533 | 506 |
| North West | 537 | 486 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 502 | 474 |
| East Midlands | 499 | 492 |
| West Midlands | 489 | 454 |
| East | 456 | 426 |
| London | 342 | 333 |
| South East | 469 | 454 |
| South West | 578 | 534 |

[1] Directly age standardised to the European Standard Population.

[2] All cancers, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, are classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10): C00-C97 excluding C44.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics (2004) 'Cancer Statistics: Registrations Series MB1'

*Table 3: Incidence rate[1] of selected cancers[2] per 100,000 by deprivation, England and Wales, 2002-04 average*

| | Breast | Prostate | Lung | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Deprivation quintile* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* |
| Q1 Least deprived | 157 | 100 | 56 | 28 |
| Q2 | 152 | 96 | 70 | 34 |
| Q3 | 148 | 91 | 83 | 42 |
| Q4 | 141 | 85 | 99 | 53 |
| Q5 Most deprived | 132 | 82 | 125 | 67 |

[1] Directly age standardised to the European Standard Population.

[2] Cancers are classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10): prostate C61, Breast C50, Lung C33-34.

*Source:*

Unpublished data from Rowan S (2007) 'Trends in cancer incidence by deprivation, England and Wales, 1990-2002' in Health Statistics Quarterly 36: 24-41.

## Civil Servants

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the Civil Service are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* black and minority ethnic male and *(d)* black and minority ethnic female. [171380]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what proportion of the Civil Service are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* BME male and *(d)* BME female. I am replying in her absence. (171380)

Statistics on the gender of civil servants are published every quarter in table 6 of the Public Sector Employment First Release. The latest published statistics are for June 2007.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0907.pdf

More detailed diversity statistics, including statistics on gender and ethnic origin are published in Civil Service Statistics, an on-line article available from the National Statistics website.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?id=1885

The latest period for which the statistics are available is the year to September 2006.

*Civil Service—permanent employees by gender and ethnic origin 30 September 2006*

| | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* |
| All | 47 | 53 |
| Ethnic minority [1] | 3.3 | 5.2 |

[1] Ethnic minority is calculated as a percentage of known ethnic origin

*Source:*
Mandate and Departmental Returns

## Death

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were in the home in the following age groups *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 24, *(c)* 25 to 65 and *(d)* over 65 in each of the last five years. [173552]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were in the home in the following age groups (a) under 16, (b) 16 to 24, (c) 25 to 65 and (d) over 65 in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (173552)

The latest figures are for deaths registered in the calendar year 2006. The table below shows the number of deaths which occurred at home by age group between 2002 to 2006.

*Number of deaths which occurred at home,[1] by age group, England and Wales, 2002-2006[2]*

| | *Under 16* | *16-24* | *25-65* | *66 and over* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 490 | 589 | 25,210 | 71,526 |
| 2003 | 437 | 595 | 25,510 | 70,696 |
| 2004 | 430 | 569 | 24,925 | 68,258 |
| 2005 | 413 | 528 | 25,049 | 68,255 |
| 2006 | 436 | 576 | 25,581 | 68,846 |

[1] Deaths at home are those at the usual residence of the deceased (according to the informant who registered the death), where this was not a communal establishment.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Delivery Unit: Academies

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which academies have been *(a)* visited and *(b)* contacted as part of the Delivery Unit Review of Academies; and if he will make a statement. [172500]

**Andy Burnham:** The joint PMDU/DCSF review is studying progress across the full Academy programme. My Department considers that the release of the names of the Academies either visited or contacted by the review team would have an inhibiting effect on the free and frank discussions required in priority reviews and would disrupt our ability to meet our wider objectives, both in this review and in future PMDU work. PMDU reviews are confidential advice to Ministers; we do not disclose the recommendations or publish any report.

## Departmental Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171311]

**Angela Eagle:** Chapter 7 of the "Ministerial Code" sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

## Departmental ICT

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what e-procurement innovations in relation to *(a)* how information is communicated and *(b)* the use of online booking tools have been introduced in core Treasury; what estimate of generated cost savings has been made; and if he will make a statement. [170347]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury have introduced the following eProcurement tools and online booking systems:

Oracle Finance System enabled to allow purchase orders to be issued electronically, electronic invoicing capability, electronic remittance advice and automatic payment;

Treasury uses OGCbuying.solutions Catalist ITQ (Invitation To Quote) system;

Online systems for ordering goods and services such as stationery, business cards, paper supplies and temporary staff;

An online learning management booking system;

An online travel booking system.

Cost savings attributable specifically to these tools are not recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each Civil Service grade are employed by his Department. [172741]

**Angela Eagle:** The latest available statistics on grade and gender of civil servants in departments and agencies are as at 30 September 2006 and are published in "Civil Service Statistics 2006" at Table H. This document and associated tables are produced by the Office for National Statistics and can be accessed from the following website addresses:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/CivilService2006TablesandCharts.xls

### Departmental Opinion Polls

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what opinion polls his Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164958]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury does not maintain records in the way requested and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Orders and Regulations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many regulations his Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked in the last 12 months. [167083]

**Angela Eagle:** 136 regulations were made by the Treasury in the last 12 months.

No central record is held of revocations as these can be effected by either primary or secondary legislation.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172435]

**Angela Eagle:** There is no express provision prohibiting the assignment of debt in the standard terms and conditions of purchase. However, there is a provision prohibiting the contractor from assigning any portion of the Contract without the prior written consent of the Lords Commissioners of HM Treasury (or such other person or persons duly appointed by them). On the basis that a prohibition on 'assignment of debt' includes a prohibition on the contractor from assigning money owed to it under a contract to a third party, the legal team take this provision to mean that under HMT's standard terms and conditions of purchase a contractor may not assign its debts without HMT's prior consent.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172515]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury's performance currently exceeds the government's target of recycling 40 per cent. of waste by 2010 as shown in the figures in the table.

| | *Volume (metric tonnes)* | *Percentage recycled* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 61.34 | 25.59 |
| 2003-04 | 176.86 | 51.56 |
| 2004-05 | 204.10 | 54.62 |
| 2005-06 | 197.46 | 45.86 |
| 2006-07 | 189.47 | 43.10 |

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which telephone contact centres are within the responsibility of his Department. [173097]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury does not have a designated 'call centre' telephone contact centre as such. Telephone enquiries to HM Treasury are dealt with within the general Correspondence and Enquiry Unit along with email and letter correspondence handling.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the information collected by his Department on contact centre operations. [173099]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury operates a Correspondence and Enquiry Unit which is the central point of contact for those contacting the Department whether by telephone, email or letter. It handles approximately 1,000 contact items per week from Members of Parliament and the public. Details and performances are provided in the Department's annual report and via an annual written parliamentary answer.

### Financial markets

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to ensure liquidity in the financial markets following recent instability in the UK financial sector; and if he will make a statement. [163546]

**Kitty Ussher:** As the Governor made clear in his statement to TSC on 29 November, the Tripartite authorities keep conditions in international and UK financial markets under constant review. On 29 November the Governor of the Bank of England told the Treasury Committee of actions the bank is taking to assure banks of liquidity over the forthcoming year-end. The Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank have announced similar measures. The bank stands ready to take further measures in order to keep overnight rates in line with bank rate.

### Foreigners: Saudi Arabia

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of Saudi Arabian nationals living in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [171880]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of Saudi Arabian nationals living in the United Kingdom. I am replying in her absence. (171880)

Between July and September 2007, there were an estimated 12,000 Saudi Arabian nationals living in the UK. This figure is based on Labour Force Survey data and, as with any sample survey, is subject to a margin of uncertainty.

### Insurance: Public Participation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 393W, on insurance: public participation, how his Department monitors the compliance of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) with the provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 on requiring the FSA to consult on proposed rules and to produce a cost benefit analysis; and if he will make a statement. [172987]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) requires the FSA to consult on rules it proposes to make. The consultation must include a cost benefit analysis and an explanation of the purpose of the proposed rules.

The FSA is independent of Government but accountable to Parliament, Government, the public and industry in a number of ways. For example, the FSA must make an annual report to the Treasury on the discharge of its functions and the extent to which its regulatory objectives have been met—this report is then published. The independent Practitioner and Consumer Panels, whose status is set out in FSMA, ensure that the views of consumers and the industry are taken into account by the FSA. The FSA is required to respond formally to their representations.

### International Monetary Fund: Iraq

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what successor programme has been negotiated between the government of Iraq and the International Monetary Fund; what the key features of this programme are; and if he will make a statement. [170255]

**Kitty Ussher:** The UK is not party to discussions between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the government of Iraq. However, we understand that officials from the IMF continue to meet with representatives of the government of Iraq, both in the region and in Washington, to discuss progress on economic reform.

Such discussions include focus on implementing the government of Iraq's economic reform programme supported by the current IMF stand-by arrangement (SBA), approved on 23 December 2005. Following the completion of the most recent and fifth review under the SBA on 2 August 2007, the IMF executive board approved a three-month extension of the SBA until 28 December 2007, to allow an IMF policy framework to remain in place while preparations were undertaken for successor arrangements.

The government of Iraq and the IMF are currently preparing for these arrangements, which will build on the reforms identified in current and previous IMF programmes, to enhance macroeconomic stability and economic development in Iraq.

More details of the current programme, as well as reports from IMF staff and the government of Iraq's memorandums on economic and financial policies, are available on the IMF's website at:

www.imf.org.

### Meningitis: Death

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have died from meningitis in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [172972]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people have died from meningitis in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (172972)

The attached table provides the number of deaths from bacterial and viral meningitis and other meningococcal diseases in *(a)* Jarrow parliamentary constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside local authority, *(c)* North East Government Office Region, and *(d)* the UK, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number of deaths from bacterial and viral meningitis and other meningococcal diseases[1] Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North East Government Office Region, and UK, 1997-2006[2, 3, 4]*

*Deaths (persons)*

| | Jarrow | South Tyneside | North East | UK |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 517 |
| 1998 | 0 | 3 | 27 | 463 |
| 1999 | 1 | 0 | 22 | 433 |
| 2000 | 0 | 3 | 24 | 464 |
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 430 |
| 2002 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 331 |
| 2003 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 379 |
| 2004 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 309 |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 311 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 247 |

[1] Cause of death selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 036, 047, 320 and 322 for 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes A39, A87 and G00-G03 for 2001 to 2006. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[4] Figures include data provided by the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

### Northern Rock

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was involved in the appointment of Sir Bryan Sanderson as Chairman of Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [166291]

**Kitty Ussher:** The decision to appoint Sir Bryan Sanderson as Chairman of Northern Rock was made by the board of Northern Rock plc.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports he has received on the stability of Northern Rock in each of the last 12 months. [166507]

**Kitty Ussher:** On 14 August 2007, the Financial Services Authority told the Bank of England and the Treasury about its concerns about Northern Rock and its vulnerability to the tightening wholesale funding markets. The Chancellor was informed on 15 August and has received regular written and oral updates since then.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of Northern Rock's assets are free of specific charge as collateral for loans; [168523]

(2) what proportion of the lending to Northern Rock by his Department and the Bank of England is unsecured. [168526]

**Kitty Ussher:** On 14 September 2007 the Chancellor of the Exchequer authorised the Bank of England to provide a liquidity support facility to Northern Rock. A further facility was announced on [illegible] October 2007.

Lending for both facilities is on a secured basis and is secured against all of the assets of the company. Under the first facility lending is secured against collateral deemed to be eligible by the Bank of England, with an appropriate margin applied and by a charge over all of Northern Rock's assets. Lending under the second facility is secured by a charge over all of Northern Rock's assets.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what value of assets the Bank of England has accepted as collateral for loans to Northern Rock; [168524]

(2) what proportion of the Bank of England's total assets are represented by claims on Northern Rock and its assets. [168527]

**Kitty Ussher:** The sum borrowed by the company is confidential.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what due diligence his Department and the Bank of England completed before lending money to Northern Rock. [168525]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Bank of England, supported by external auditors, has conducted due diligence with regard to the processes used to manage the facility and the quality of the assets taken as collateral.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what repayment scheme has been put in place for lending by the Bank of England and his Department to Northern Rock; [168529]

(2) what guarantees his Department has offered the Bank of England on its loans to Northern Rock. [168532]

**Kitty Ussher:** I refer the right hon. Gentlemen to the letters the Chancellor sent to the chairs of the Public Accounts Committee and the Treasury Select Committee on 11 October 2007, which are available in the House Library.

## Northern Rock: Deutsche Bank

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of Deutsche Bank on the acquisition of Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [172851]

**Kitty Ussher:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

## Northern Rock: Finance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he decided not to sanction a public loan to facilitate the takeover of Northern Rock by Lloyds TSB; and if he will make a statement. [171923]

**Kitty Ussher:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 899W.

## Office of Government Commerce

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of reductions in *(a)* salary and *(b)* administration costs made by the Office of Government Commerce in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165223]

**Angela Eagle:** The following table shows OGC's total net administration costs and salary cost contained therein for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07. These figures are consistent with the resource accounts for those years.

*£000*

| *Resource accounts* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Net administration costs | 31,984 | 34,896 | 44,271 | 44,908 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| Salaries | 15,403 | 18,406 | 23,974 | 25,585 |

The OGC's expenditure increased between 2004-05 and 2005-06 due to an expansion of its remit in that period, particularly on improving efficiency across the public sector.

## Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: Israel

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make it his policy to support the application of Israel to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); what discussions he has had with the OECD on the issue; and if he will make a statement; [172470]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers and officials from his Department have had since July with the government of Israel on its application to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and if he will make a statement; [172471]

(3) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers and officials from his Department have had since July with the US Administration on the application of Israel to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and if he will make a statement. [172472]

**Kitty Ussher:** The OECD member states decided by consensus that they should start accession negotiations with Israel, Chile, Estonia, Russia and Slovenia. The UK supported this decision. Roadmaps for the accession process were prepared by the Secretary-General and approved by the OECD Council of member states. These set out the conditions each individual candidate country is expected to meet before they are invited to become members of the OECD. The FCO leads on the OECD for Her Majesty's Government.

Treasury Ministers and officials discuss a wide range of issues with their counterparts in the OECD and accession countries on an ongoing basis.

### Private Equity

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the transparency of private equity finance; if he will bring forward proposals to increase such transparency; and what research he has commissioned or supported to this end. [172637]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Government's objectives in the field of private equity are the same as their objectives in relation to other forms of ownership: to promote an environment of long-term, sustainable business success, underpinned by a strong culture of clear disclosure to, and engagement with, underlying investors and stakeholders. The Government's assessment also suggests that it is in the interests of the private equity industry to provide information which will improve public understanding of the industry by demonstrating the extent of its contribution to the UK economy and employment.

The Government also welcomed the announcement earlier this year by leading private equity houses and the British Venture Capital Association that it would undertake a review to draw up a comply-or-explain code to improve levels of disclosure. Sir David Walker's code is an important step forward in improving the transparency of the industry. He has set a challenge for the private equity industry and the Government will watch with interest to see how the industry responds to this.

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of purchasing software that would enable all HM Revenue and Customs data to be encrypted. [171798]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers. This will consider all aspects of data security. His interim report is expected to be received shortly.

### Self-employed: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average income was of a person in Herefordshire who was self-employed in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170960]

**Angela Eagle:** The average income of self-employed taxpayers in Herefordshire can be found in table 3.14 "Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menuby-year.htm#314

These tables are only available for 2003-04 and 2004-05 and are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes.

### Self-employed: Income

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the national average income was of a self-employed person in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170961]

**Angela Eagle:** The mean total income of people with self-employment sources of income is shown in 3.10 "Income of individuals with self employment sources, by range of self employment income and source" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#310

The tables are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes and are available for 1999-2000 to 2004-05. Information for earlier years can be found in the annual Inland Revenue Statistics publications available in the Library.

### Self-employed: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of people in Suffolk were self-employed in each year since 1997. [173453]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what percentage of people in Suffolk were self-employed in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (173453)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The table attached shows numbers of self-employed people, and these numbers as the percentage of all employed persons, in Suffolk, for the 12 month periods ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the annual local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2007 from the APS.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Changes over time should be treated with particular caution.

*Self-employed people resident in Suffolk*

| *12 months ending* | *Self-employed (Thousand)* | *Self-employed as a percentage of all employed (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| February 1998 | 38 | 12 |
| February 1999 | 49 | 15 |
| February 2000 | 43 | 13 |
| February 2001 | 37 | 12 |
| February 2002 | 43 | 13 |
| February 2003 | 43 | 13 |
| February 2004 | 40 | 13 |
| March 2005 | 38 | 12 |
| March 2006 | 42 | 13 |
| March 2007 | 48 | 15 |

*Notes:*

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

*Source:*

Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

## Self-employed: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of people in Tamworth were self-employed in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [173441]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what percentage of people in Tamworth were self-employed in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (173441)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The table attached shows numbers of self-employed people, and these numbers as the percentage of all employed persons, in the Tamworth constituency, for the 12 month periods ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the annual local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2007 from the APS.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Changes over time should be treated with particular caution.

*Self-employed people resident in Tamworth constituency*

| *12 months ending* | *Self-employed (Thousand)* | *Self-employed as a percentage of all employed (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| February 1998 | 5 | 12 |
| February 1999 | 6 | 14 |
| February 2000 | 8 | 16 |
| February 2001 | 7 | 13 |
| February 2002 | 4 | 8 |
| February 2003 | 4 | 8 |
| February 2004 | 3 | 7 |
| March 2005 | 5 | 11 |
| March 2006 | 4 | 9 |
| March 2007 | 8 | 15 |

*Notes:*

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

*Source:*

Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

## Stamp Duties

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median values of stamp duty paid in (i) England, (ii) South East England and (iii) London by (A) first time buyers, (B) all other house purchasers and (C) all house purchasers were in the last 12 months. [171800]

**Kitty Ussher:** No estimate has been made of the stamp duty land tax paid by first time buyers. For all house purchasers, the estimated mean and median amount of stamp duty land tax paid in 2006-07 is as follows:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *Mean* | *Median* |
| England | 3,940 | 1,550 |
| South East England | 5,020 | 1,870 |
| London | 7,940 | 2,210 |

## Strokes: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have died from stroke related illnesses in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [173455]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people have died from stroke related illnesses in Suffolk in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (173455)

The table below provides the number of deaths where stroke was the underlying cause of death in Suffolk county, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number of deaths where stroke was the underlying cause of death,[1] Suffolk county,[2] 2002 to 2006[3]*

| | *Suffolk county (persons)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 887 |
| 2003 | 831 |
| 2004 | 805 |
| 2005 | 741 |
| 2006 | 681 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), codes I60-I69.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

### VAT: Fraud

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the UK economy of VAT fraud in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [171860]

**Jane Kennedy:** No estimate has been produced for the cost to the UK economy of VAT fraud. HMRC published annual estimates of VAT losses, and the level of MTIC fraud alongside PBR 2007 in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007", which is available from the House of Commons Library or from the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2007/mitl.pdf

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on average per year on the administration of tax credits over the last five years; and what proportion was spent on the delivery of frontline services. [172615]

**Jane Kennedy:** The costs of managing and paying child and working tax credit in the financial years from 2003-04 are shown at figure 1 in chapter 2 of the NAO 2006-07 Standard Report Costs relating to 2007-08 will be published in the Departmental Trust Statement at the end of June 2008.

Information on the proportion of costs spent in the delivery of tax credits frontline services is not available.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of telephone scripts used by call centre staff for the tax credits helpline. [172616]

**Jane Kennedy:** Advisers do not use scripts, but do have access to online support and advice tools to help them in answering customer's questions. To put these online tools into a format suitable for publication would incur disproportionate cost. However the tax credit manual and the tax credit technical manual are already publicly available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/index.html

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/tctmanual/index.html

respectively.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of calls received by the tax credits helpline were from a mobile phone in the last period for which figures are available. [172618]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC estimate that around 21 per cent. of the calls made to the tax credit helpline during the November 2007 were made from a mobile phone.

### Winter: Death

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged over 65 resident in Cleethorpes constituency died during the winter months in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [172712]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people aged over 65 resident in Cleethorpes constituency died during the winter months in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (172712)

Figures for winter deaths are calculated using a definition of winter as a four-month period from December of one year to March of the next year. The table below provides the number of winter deaths of people resident in Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency over the age of 65, for the years 1996/97 to 2005/06 (the latest available).

*Table 1: Winter deaths of persons over the age of 65[1], Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency[2], 1996-97 to 2005-06*

| | *Deaths (persons)*<br>*Cleethorpes* |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 288 |
| 1997-98 | 301 |
| 1998-99 | 268 |
| 1999-2000 | 306 |
| 2000-01 | 284 |
| 2001-02 | 309 |
| 2002-03 | 292 |
| 2003-04 | 300 |
| 2004-05 | 278 |
| 2005-06 | 266 |

[1] Winter deaths are defined as those occurring in December of one year, plus those occurring in January to March of the following year.

[2] Using boundaries as of 2007 for all years.

### World Customs Organisation

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what response he has made to the European Union's decision to implement the World Customs Organisation's ruling that mobility scooters should be classified as leisure vehicles for tax purposes; and if he will make a statement. [172130]

**Jane Kennedy:** Officials from HM Revenue and Customs are advising the industry on the options available to pursue a change to the customs classification. The officials have written to the European Commission asking to have the classification referred back to the World Customs Organisation. The submission also included a request for an import duty suspension to be introduced while the scooters remain classified in a heading that attracts import duty.

Classification for import duty purposes under the Customs regime has no direct bearing on VAT liability, which is determined by VAT law. For VAT purposes, mobility scooters may qualify for the zero-rating that applies when disabled people purchase certain 'carriages' or other equipment specifically designed to meet their needs. The Government have no plans to change the scope of this VAT relief.

### Written Questions

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer question 162908 tabled by the hon. Member for Sevenoaks on 7 November on the bank depositors' protection scheme; and what the reasons are for the time take to reply. [173215]

**Kitty Ussher:** I answered the hon. Gentleman's question yesterday and regret not having been in a position to do so earlier.

## JUSTICE

### Royal Prerogative

11. **Mr. Joyce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase Parliament's ability to scrutinise the Government's actions under the Royal Prerogative. [172669]

**Mr. Wills:** On 25 October the Ministry of Justice jointly published with the MOD and FCO a public consultation document which proposes reforms to the way the powers to make decisions to deploy the armed forces into armed conflict abroad and to ratify of treaties are exercised. The consultation closes on 17 January 2008.

The "Governance of Britain" Green Paper also states that the Government would undertake a wider review of the remaining prerogative powers.

### Young People Reoffending

12. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to prevent young people reoffending. [172670]

23. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to prevent young people reoffending. [172681]

**Mr. Hanson:** Between 2000 and 2005 youth re-offending has reduced by 2.5 per cent. The Youth Justice Board have worked with partners to improve practice, ensure the right performance frameworks and indicators are in place and put in place a delivery plan to reduce youth reoffending.

### Adult Reoffending

13. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce adult reoffending. [172671]

20. **Ms Butler:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce adult re-offending. [172678]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government are committed to reducing adult reoffending. The latest figures show that reoffending is down by 5.8 per cent. since 2000. We are now consulting on a new strategic plan to build on our success in reducing reoffending.

### Community Sentences

14. **Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to enhance public confidence in community sentences. [172672]

**Maria Eagle:** Community sentences are already widely used and are associated with reduced reoffending. Activity is already underway to communicate the effectiveness of community sentences and the professionalism of probation officers to the public.

### Forced Marriages

15. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve the protection afforded by the criminal justice system to those vulnerable to forced marriages. [172673]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 will provide civil remedies for those who are being forced into marriage or have been forced into a marriage. Existing criminal offences also offer protection for those being forced into marriage. These include common assault, kidnapping, child abduction, rape and threatening to kill.

### Party Funding

16. **Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to restart the cross-party talks on party funding. [172674]

**Bridget Prentice:** Arrangements are in hand for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) to meet with other political parties.

### Burglary: Assault

17. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward proposals to amend the law to change the test for the defence of self-defence put forward by residents accused of assault during the course of burglary. [172675]

**Mr. Straw:** I announced my intention to review the law on self-defence at the Labour Party Conference in the autumn. Our aim has been to complete this work in time for the issue to be addressed in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill. That remains the case and we intend to table amendments to the Bill for Report.

### Sentencing Policy

18. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to amend guidelines issued by his Department on sentencing policy; and if he will make a statement. [172676]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Government do not issue guidelines on sentencing. Sentencing guidelines are issued by the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council or in some cases by the Court of Appeal.

The Government have accepted a recommendation from Lord Carter of Coles' report on prisons to set up a working group to consider the advantages, disadvantages and feasibility of a structured sentencing framework and permanent Sentencing Commission.

### Youth Custody: Education and Training

19. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve the access of young people in custody to education and training; and if he will make a statement. [172677]

**Mr. Hanson:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced that we will consult in the new year on whether and how local authorities should lead on education and training in custody. This would mean that for the first time young people in custody would have access to education services that are consistent with what happens in schools, colleges and wider providers across the country.

### Corston Report

21. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of the Corston report; and if he will make a statement. [172679]

**Mr. Hanson:** I refer my hon. Friend to my written ministerial statement of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 96WS, which announced the publication of the Government's response to the Corston report. The response sets out the commitments that have been made across government to take forward the recommendations. The response provides a summary of timescales for actions over the next 12 months.

### Prison Overcrowding

22. **Mr. Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of prison overcrowding on prisoner rehabilitation programmes. [172680]

**Maria Eagle:** The main risk entailed by population pressures is that prisoners do not complete offending behaviour programmes because they are transferred to another establishment before the programme is completed.

The Prison Service monitors the delivery of all offending behaviour programmes closely. Less than 1 per cent. of those who started offending behaviour programmes in 2006-07 failed to complete because of transfer.

### Anthony Sweeney

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will order an independent inquiry into the circumstances which allowed Anthony Sweeney to be released from prison on a temporary basis. [173395]

**Mr. Hanson:** There has been an investigation by the Prison Service into Mr. Sweeney's release. I believe his release was in accordance with Prison Service policy. I will however, write to the hon. Gentleman shortly.

### Departmental Manpower

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of posts in his Department have been recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172258]

**Maria Eagle:** No posts have been reclassified from back office to frontline posts in the Ministry of Justice.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172439]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice's standard terms and conditions of contract contain a clause preventing third parties from deriving any benefits from the contract, unless this is explicitly agreed by both parties to the contract. This clause would prevent the supplier assigning the benefits of the contract to meet obligations such as debts. We also have a clause that prevents the supplier from assigning the contract without our consent.

### Disclosure of Information: Government Departments

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been given to Departments about the inclusion of provisions limiting freedom of information disclosures in their contracts with consultants or contractors. [172583]

**Mr. Wills:** The Secretary of State issues the code of practice on the Discharge of Public Authorities' Functions under part I of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It was laid before Parliament in November 2004. Part V sets out guidance on freedom of information and confidentiality obligations.

Further guidance on freedom of information and confidentiality obligations is available on the Ministry of Justice Freedom of Information and Office of Government Commerce websites.

### Legal Representation: Armed Forces

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funds have been made available in each year since 2003 for legal representation of bereaved families at inquests into deaths of service personnel who have lost their lives as a result of *(a)* hostile action and *(b)* any other cause of death while serving in HM Armed Forces. [172299]

**Maria Eagle:** Although legal aid is not normally available for representation at inquests, it can be made available under the Access to Justice Act 1999 in certain specified circumstances. Since 2003, the following number of applications for representation of bereaved families at inquests into deaths of service personnel have been granted.

| | *Death as a result of hostile action* | *Death for other reasons* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 0 | 1 |
| 2004 | 0 | 1 |
| 2005 | 0 | 1 |
| 2006 | 1 | 1 |
| 2007 | 4 | 1 |

### Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the operation of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. [172424]

**Mr. Straw:** It was announced in the Queen's Speech on 6 November that the Government would bring forward proposals on the regulation of party funding and expenditure. I am happy to receive any representations from the hon. Member.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* amendments have been made to and *(b)* recent representations he has received about the operation of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [172426]

**Mr. Straw:** The Electoral Administration Act 2006 amended the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to apply similar rules of transparency and permissibility to loans as already applied to donations. The 2006 Act also made some minor technical amendments relating to the control of donations. The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 made amendments to the 2000 Act in order to align the rules for donations more closely with those that apply to the rest of the United Kingdom.

I have received no recent formal representations in my capacity as Secretary of State for Justice on the operation of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

It was announced in the Queen's Speech on 6 November that the Government would bring forward proposals on the regulation of party funding and expenditure.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [172427]

**Mr. Straw:** I have issued no statutory instruments, departmental circulars or other documents consequential to the provisions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It was announced in the Queen's Speech on 6 November that the Government would bring forward proposals on the regulation of party funding and expenditure.

## Political Parties: Finance

**Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has published on compliance with the law governing donations to political parties. [172658]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Electoral Commission is the body responsible for issuing guidance on the law governing donations to political parties.

## Prisoners Release

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were granted early release under the home detention curfew scheme in each year since its introduction, broken down by prison from which the prisoners were released; and if he will make a statement. [173411]

**Maria Eagle:** The figures requested are in the following table.

*HOC releases by prison, 1999 to 2006*

| *Prison name* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 14,847 | 15,510 | 13,649 | 20,456 | 21,188 | 19,294 | 17,296 | 13,666 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Acklington | 100 | 70 | 80 | 140 | 110 | 50 | 90 | 70 |
| Aldington | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Altcourse | 90 | 90 | 140 | 280 | 350 | 280 | 270 | 260 |
| Ashfield | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 20 | [1]— | [1]— | 10 |
| Ashwell | 50 | 190 | 120 | 190 | 250 | 190 | 130 | 100 |
| Askham Grange | 120 | 110 | 100 | 120 | 130 | 100 | 70 | 80 |
| Aylesbury | 10 | 10 | [1]— | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | [1]— |
| Bedford | 70 | 60 | 50 | 100 | 130 | 190 | 180 | 120 |
| Belmarsh | 80 | 140 | 120 | 80 | 120 | 90 | 90 | 50 |
| Birmingham | 560 | 380 | 240 | 310 | 450 | 770 | 400 | 310 |
| Blakenhurst | 230 | 320 | 310 | 150 | 190 | 180 | 300 | 230 |
| Blundeston | 20 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 40 |
| Brinsford | 40 | 70 | 60 | 70 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 30 |
| Bristol | 50 | 60 | 30 | 60 | 50 | 90 | 40 | 10 |
| Brixton | 160 | 110 | 40 | 60 | 90 | 50 | 60 | 30 |
| Brockhill | 40 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 20 |
| Bronzefield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 60 | 40 |
| Buckley Hall | 30 | 40 | 30 | 150 | 220 | 250 | 230 | 70 |
| Bullingdon | 210 | 270 | 220 | 390 | 340 | 280 | 270 | 210 |
| Bullwood Hall | 30 | 40 | 60 | 80 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 30 |
| Camp Hill | 40 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 80 | 100 | 40 | 100 |
| Canterbury | 40 | 50 | 50 | 120 | 170 | 120 | 170 | 90 |
| Cardiff | 220 | 210 | 170 | 230 | 280 | 220 | 180 | 90 |
| Castington | 20 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 20 |
| Channings Wood | 80 | 90 | 80 | 90 | 80 | 80 | 90 | 90 |
| Chelmsford | 80 | 110 | 80 | 220 | 200 | 70 | 40 | 30 |
| Coldingley | [1]— | 10 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 10 |

*HOC releases by prison, 1999 to 2006*

| *Prison name* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cookham Wood | 40 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 60 | 80 | 100 | 60 |
| Dartmoor | 20 | 20 | 10 | 90 | 70 | 90 | 50 | 40 |
| Deerbolt | 40 | 30 | 110 | 160 | 170 | 130 | 150 | 150 |
| Doncaster | 130 | 150 | 140 | 250 | 330 | 350 | 310 | 240 |
| Dorchester | 20 | 20 | 20 | 70 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 30 |
| Dovegate | 0 | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 0 | 0 |
| Dover | 110 | 130 | 130 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Downview | 30 | 40 | 30 | 110 | 120 | 140 | 90 | 90 |
| Drake Hall | 320 | 360 | 400 | 420 | 260 | 190 | 160 | 210 |
| Durham | 160 | 140 | 80 | 180 | 110 | 140 | 210 | 100 |
| East Sutton Park | 110 | 150 | 110 | 70 | 80 | 50 | 20 | 40 |
| Eastwood Park | 110 | 120 | 40 | 50 | 80 | 120 | 150 | 130 |
| Edmunds Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 50 | 150 | 220 |
| Elmley | 90 | 120 | 140 | 210 | 140 | 140 | 70 | 60 |
| Erlestoke | 50 | 60 | 40 | 90 | 90 | 100 | 70 | 30 |
| Everthorpe | 120 | 70 | 60 | 90 | 210 | 90 | 120 | 140 |
| Exeter | 170 | 140 | 100 | 180 | 160 | 130 | 140 | 80 |
| Featherstone | 110 | 80 | 60 | 110 | 130 | 80 | 130 | 110 |
| Feltham | 60 | 90 | 60 | 80 | 50 | 20 | 20 | [1]— |
| Ford | 320 | 380 | 350 | 540 | 660 | 630 | 570 | 370 |
| Forest Bank | 0 | 130 | 150 | 270 | 210 | 150 | 140 | 110 |
| Foston Hall | 30 | 40 | 30 | 110 | 130 | 90 | 80 | 70 |
| Full Sutton | 0 | [1]— | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Garth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | [1]— | 0 |
| Glen Parva | 150 | 130 | 190 | 370 | 390 | 450 | 350 | 260 |
| Gloucester | 40 | 70 | 30 | 90 | 80 | 50 | 40 | 30 |
| Grendon | 230 | 230 | 180 | 250 | 320 | 250 | 220 | 190 |
| Guys Marsh | 190 | 180 | 150 | 190 | 160 | 170 | 190 | 130 |
| Haslar | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Haverigg | 60 | 70 | 100 | 140 | 140 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Hewell Grange | 410 | 400 | 440 | 430 | 330 | 310 | 190 | 180 |
| Highdown | 180 | 190 | 90 | 110 | 180 | 130 | 140 | 120 |
| Highpoint | 190 | 260 | 250 | 380 | 280 | 210 | 140 | 120 |
| Hindley | 40 | 50 | 120 | 80 | 90 | 60 | 30 | 20 |
| Hollesley Bay | 190 | 210 | 200 | 350 | 300 | 290 | 270 | 220 |
| Holloway | 90 | 100 | 70 | 50 | 30 | 60 | 140 | 120 |
| Holme House | 150 | 70 | 80 | 150 | 160 | 130 | 140 | 140 |
| Hull | 70 | 120 | 90 | 190 | 220 | 180 | 110 | 70 |
| Huntercombe | 220 | 60 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 20 |
| Kirkham | 930 | 1110 | 800 | 1170 | 1030 | 970 | 760 | 640 |
| Kirklevington | 80 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 30 | 30 | 20 |
| Lancaster | 30 | 20 | 30 | 60 | 70 | 50 | 50 | 30 |
| Lancaster Farms | 100 | 130 | 150 | 90 | 60 | 120 | 100 | 50 |
| Latchmere House | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| Leeds | 150 | 150 | 140 | 260 | 330 | 190 | 270 | 130 |
| Leicester | 20 | 20 | 90 | 170 | 150 | 100 | 50 | 70 |
| Lewes | 120 | 100 | 100 | 110 | 100 | 60 | 50 | 30 |
| Leyhill | 210 | 380 | 380 | 450 | 400 | 310 | 280 | 220 |
| Lincoln | 70 | 70 | 70 | 160 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 60 |
| Lindholme | 240 | 110 | 80 | 130 | 210 | 200 | 180 | 210 |
| Littlehey | 40 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 70 | 50 | 30 | 10 |
| Liverpool | 230 | 150 | 170 | 290 | 320 | 490 | 260 | 390 |
| Low Newton | 100 | 150 | 200 | 230 | 290 | 270 | 150 | 100 |
| Lowdham Grange | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1]— | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maidstone | 10 | [1]— | [1]— | 10 | 20 | 20 | [1]— | 0 |
| Manchester | 60 | 120 | 130 | 310 | 240 | 210 | 170 | 90 |
| Moorland | 340 | 360 | 370 | 450 | 450 | 380 | 440 | 330 |
| Morton Hall | 280 | 240 | 40 | 80 | 130 | 120 | 90 | 120 |
| Mount | 90 | 150 | 90 | 130 | 90 | 60 | 80 | [1]— |
| New Hall | 90 | 130 | 130 | 120 | 160 | 200 | 160 | 120 |
| No Establishment Stated | 30 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 20 |
| North Sea Camp | 340 | 330 | 330 | 480 | 490 | 480 | 380 | 310 |
| Northallerton | 80 | 90 | 50 | 480 | 650 | 490 | 390 | 250 |
| Norwich | 410 | 360 | 260 | 340 | 270 | 200 | 120 | 70 |
| Nottingham | [1]— | 50 | 30 | 90 | 20 | 40 | 30 | 30 |

*HOC releases by prison, 1999 to 2006*

| *Prison name* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Onley | 230 | 210 | 200 | 280 | 310 | 300 | 340 | 260 |
| Parc | 80 | 140 | 20 | 60 | 220 | 230 | 210 | 190 |
| Parkhurst | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pentonville | 180 | 180 | 130 | 210 | 260 | 240 | 160 | 40 |
| Peterborough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 290 |
| Portland | 100 | 140 | 110 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 120 | 150 |
| Preston | 60 | 30 | 30 | 70 | 90 | 40 | 70 | 20 |
| Ranby | 160 | 120 | 100 | 460 | 390 | 240 | 280 | 200 |
| Reading | 40 | 60 | 70 | 110 | 140 | 150 | 110 | 70 |
| Risley | 80 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 150 |
| Rochester | 30 | 20 | 40 | 90 | 100 | 150 | 160 | 140 |
| Rye Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 |
| Send | 20 | 30 | 60 | 60 | 110 | 100 | 90 | 40 |
| Shepton Mallet | 50 | 20 | 20 | 30 | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shrewsbury | 170 | 160 | 140 | 230 | 170 | 160 | 90 | 90 |
| Stafford | 80 | 150 | 130 | 190 | 130 | 50 | 60 | 60 |
| Stanford Hill | 490 | 610 | 610 | 600 | 580 | 550 | 430 | 350 |
| Stocken | 80 | 60 | 70 | 150 | 150 | 70 | 80 | 100 |
| Stoke Heath | 70 | 100 | 140 | 250 | 280 | 180 | 160 | 190 |
| Styal | 120 | 119 | 110 | 110 | 120 | 170 | 140 | 80 |
| Sudbury | 200 | 130 | 150 | 300 | 260 | 200 | 350 | 250 |
| Swaleside | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Swansea | 40 | 60 | 30 | 80 | 80 | 50 | 100 | 70 |
| Swinfen Hall | 10 | [1] | 20 | [1] | 10 | [1] | 10 | 20 |
| Thorn Cross | 240 | 240 | 180 | 300 | 200 | 280 | 300 | 180 |
| Usk | 190 | 230 | 230 | 260 | 300 | 250 | 200 | 150 |
| Verne | 30 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 60 | 40 | 30 | 20 |
| Wandsworth | 170 | 30 | 110 | 150 | 160 | 110 | 90 | 40 |
| Warren Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Wayland | 100 | 76 | 50 | 100 | 100 | 70 | 60 | 90 |
| Wealstun | 260 | 320 | 350 | 430 | 410 | 390 | 330 | 280 |
| Weare | 180 | 210 | 140 | 250 | 220 | 230 | 160 | 0 |
| Wellingborough | 90 | 120 | 90 | 150 | 190 | 110 | 90 | 50 |
| Werrington | [1] | 10 | 0 | 0 | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Wetherby | 80 | 30 | [1] | [1] | 20 | 10 | 20 | [1] |
| Whatton | [1] | [1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Winchester | 170 | 150 | 150 | 240 | 230 | 240 | 300 | 210 |
| Wolds | 30 | 90 | 60 | 100 | 60 | 30 | 30 | 40 |
| Woodhill | 150 | 90 | 40 | 90 | 200 | 170 | 110 | 70 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 170 | 90 | 50 | 130 | 190 | 250 | 270 | 210 |
| Wymott | 30 | 60 | 30 | 60 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 40 |

[1] Number of cases less than 10.

*Note:*

Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prisons

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison places he estimates there will be in England and Wales in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010, *(d)* 2011 and *(e)* 2012. [172836]

**Mr. Hanson:** Following the publication of Lord Carter's review of prisons, Securing the Future, the proposed building and modernisation programme is aimed to bring overall net capacity of the prison estate to just over 96,000 places by 2014.

The individual projects and the time frame to deliver this capacity are being developed.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many safe cells have been installed in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [173211]

(2) how many prisoners committed suicide in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many of these suicides occurred in safe cells. [173212]

**Maria Eagle:** Finding out the number of safer cells installed during the last 10 years would incur disproportionate cost. However, there are to date in excess of 5,000 safer cells installed across the prison estate.

The following table provides figures for apparent self-inflicted deaths in each of the last 10 years. There have been 14 such deaths of prisoners located in safer cells in that time.

| | *Self-inflicted deaths*[1] | *Self-inflicted deaths in safer cells*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 83 | 0 |
| 1999 | 91 | 0 |
| 2000 | 81 | 0 |
| 2001 | 73 | 2 |
| 2002 | 95 | 3 |
| 2003 | 94 | 3 |
| 2004 | 95 | 1 |
| 2005 | 78 | 0 |
| 2006 | 67 | 4 |
| 2007[2] | 83 | 1 |
| Total | 840 | 14 |

[1] The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

[2] To 7 December 2007.

The Prison Service has "safer cells"—no cell can be considered totally "safe" that can complement a regime providing care of at risk prisoners and reduce risks around impulsive suicide attempts. The use of this type of accommodation should be seen as just one part of the comprehensive suicide prevention strategy. The design of safer cells has several features which can assist staff in the task of managing those at risk from suicide, such as specially designed furniture and fixtures which are manufactured and installed to make the attachment of ligatures very difficult, and access to window bars prevented via-non-opening windows with integral ventilation grills.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of the 9,500 extra prison places in the building programme already underway will be safe cells; [173213]

(2) pursuant to his oral statement of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 827-30, on prisons (Carter Review), how many of the additional 10,500 prison places will be safe cells. [173394]

**Maria Eagle:** Existing Prison Service guidance, Prison Service Order 2700 Suicide Prevention and Self Harm Management, on the introduction of safer cells states that for new accommodation all cells in category A, category B and local prisons will be fitted with safer cells to the full safer cell specification and 25 per cent. of category C accommodation will be fitted with safer cells to the full specification.

All projects within both the existing 9,500 place programme and the additional programme for 10,500 places are assessed individually in response to local requirements. The individual projects to deliver the new capacity are being developed.

### Rape: Convictions

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research the Government has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on differential conviction rates in rape cases in different police force areas in England and Wales. [171356]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

Home Office Research entitled "Investigating and Detecting Recorded Offences of Rape" was published on 20 July 2007. It looked at factors affecting detection and conviction rates using case files from eight police forces. The research included a comparison of the conviction rates across the force areas.

### Young Offenders: Learning Disability

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders in England had a learning disability or difficulty at the latest date for which figures are available. [172956]

**Mr. Hanson:** The study "Mental Health Needs and Effectiveness of Provision for Young Offenders in Custody and in the Community" (Professor Richard Harrington and Professor Sue Bailey, Youth Justice Board for England and Wales 2005), identified 23 per cent. of young offenders as having learning difficulties, that is having an IQ of 70 or less.

The research method used, however, was not able to differentiate between intrinsic learning disabilities and low IQ scores where lack of education was a contributory factor.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Demonstrations

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to receive the *(a)* interim and *(b)* final report from the Strategic Review of Parading in Northern Ireland. [172839]

**Paul Goggins:** I expect to receive the interim report from the Strategic Review of Parading in the new year. The date of their final report will depend on the time it takes to complete their consultations once the interim report has been published.

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to publish *(a)* an interim and *(b)* the final report from the Strategic Review of Parading in Northern Ireland. [172840]

**Paul Goggins:** I expect to publish the interim report from the Strategic Review of Parading in the new year. The final report will be published later in 2008.

### Members: Correspondence

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to reply to the letter of 27 September 2007 from the hon. Member for North Down on police officers' pay; and if he will provide an explanation for the delay in replying. [170472]

**Paul Goggins:** Police officer pay in Northern Ireland is considered as part of the national Police Negotiating Board process. I understand that the hon. Lady wrote in identical terms to Home Office Ministers and received a substantive response setting out the Government's position on police pay.

In view of this Ministers did not send a separate response. I apologise for the confusion and will write setting out the current position with regard to the 2007 police pay award.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Carbon Sequestration

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what capacity building he has undertaken to increase carbon *(a)* capture and *(b)* storage infrastructure. [164386]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government have undertaken a series of measures to build capacity in both carbon capture and carbon dioxide storage. These include:

supporting one of the world's first commercial scale demonstrations of the full chain of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology on a coal-fired power station;

developing a regulatory regime for the storage of $CO_2$ (framework to be outlined in the forthcoming Energy Bill);

establishing a fund, in 2005, of £25 million (since increased to £35 million) to encourage the industry-led demonstration of carbon abatement technologies including CCS;

funding a three-year programme of research, through the Natural Environment Research Council, into issues related to CCS, particularly storage of carbon dioxide;

supporting CCS research projects through the Technology Strategy Board programme (during the period 2004-08 we have allocated £11.2 million for research projects into all carbon abatement technologies);

working with the North Sea Basin Task Force to publish a report focusing specifically on the possibilities for developing a pipeline infrastructure in the North sea for transporting $CO_2$ for permanent storage; and working very closely with the Chinese government to support an EU initiative for a near zero emissions coal project in China which will incorporate CCS technology.

### Coal: Pollution Control

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the relative effectiveness of pre-combustion and post-combustion clean coal technologies; and if he will make a statement. [167045]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* My Department has funded two studies, the reports from which will shortly be available at:

www.berr.gov.uk

which have looked at pre- and post-combustion technologies. These show that both technologies are potentially capable of capturing 85 to 90 per cent. of carbon dioxide produced.

We have selected post-combustion capture for the UK demonstration project since this meets our objective of demonstrating technology that is relevant and transferable to key global markets—particularly in emerging economies. However, we consider that all CCS technologies have the potential to make valuable contributions to reducing carbon emissions and we expect to see all CCS options rolled out once they have been successfully demonstrated.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of pre-combustion clean coal technologies in meeting UK carbon reduction targets. [167046]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* A modelling study, available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file19834

undertaken to inform the UK's Carbon Abatement Technologies strategy showed that carbon capture and storage (involving the deployment of both pre- and post-combustion technologies) would contribute to the UK's carbon reduction targets from about 2020.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department is considering for the encouragement of the use of pre-combustion coal technologies. [167047]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* The Department has a £35 million programme to support all carbon abatement technologies, including pre-combustion capture technologies and we have funded two research projects, the reports from which will shortly be available at:

www.berr.gov.uk

looking specifically at pre-combustion technologies. We are also supporting the wider deployment of all CCS technologies through the development of a regulatory framework to govern the storage of carbon dioxide and other ongoing policy work.

We selected post-combustion capture for the UK demonstration project since this meets our objective of demonstrating technology that is relevant and transferable to key global markets—particularly in emerging economies. However, we consider that all CCS technologies have the potential to make valuable contributions to reducing carbon emissions and we expect to see all CCS options rolled out once they have been successfully demonstrated.

### Radioactive Materials: Transport

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to consult *(a)* London residents and *(b)* local authorities in London on the transportation by rail through London of nuclear waste; and if he will make a statement. [169388]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

For the purposes of this question 'nuclear waste' will be taken to mean irradiated nuclear fuel (INF) which is transported by rail from nuclear power stations to Sellafield in Cumbria.

The Government set out their preliminary view on the future of nuclear power in the consultation document, published on 23 May. Chapter 7 of the consultation document considers transport issues. In it the Government believe that the risks of transporting nuclear materials are very small and that there is an effective regulatory framework in place which ensures that these risks are minimised and sensibly managed by industry. The consultation included a question on the transport of nuclear materials, which was:

> "Do you agree or disagree with the Government's views on the transport of nuclear materials? What are your reasons? Are there any significant considerations that you believe are missing? If so, what are they?"

The Government wrote to all local authorities to make them aware of the consultation and all were invited to the stakeholder meetings we held. The consultation ended on 10 October and the Government are currently carefully considering the responses received before they makes the decision in the new year.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the risks arising from the movement of nuclear waste by rail through *(a)* tunnels and *(b)* inner city areas; and if he will make a statement. [169396]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

Under health and safety legislation it is the responsibility of the organisation carrying out any activity to carry out a risk assessment. In the specific case of activities involving radioactive material this is a requirement of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (1999 No. 3232).

For the purposes of this question "nuclear waste materials" will be taken to mean irradiated nuclear fuel (INF) which is transported by rail from nuclear power stations to Sellafield in Cumbria.

Particular activities carried out by the DfT in assessing risks associated with INF transport are detailed in my answer to PQ 169395. One of the reports referred to in 169395 (NRPB-W66) looks specifically at the radiological impact of INF transports through London and concludes that it is low.

Trains transporting INF are timetabled to avoid passing through tunnels at the same time as other trains carrying dangerous goods.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171436]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information is as follows.

*(a) Expenditure on Christmas cards*

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 1,985 |
| 2003 | 3,209 |
| 2004 | 3,235 |
| 2005 | 2,135 |
| 2006 | 1,962 |

*(b) Expenditure on Christmas receptions for NDPBS*

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 8,735 |
| 2003 | 10,023 |
| 2004 | 6,596 |
| 2005 | 11,378 |
| 2006 | 14,137 |

*(c) Expenditure on Christmas decorations*

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 659 |
| 2003 | 685 |
| 2004 | 1,235 |
| 2005 | 814 |
| 2006 | 944 |

### Cost Review Group

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of the meeting of the Cost Review Group on 9 March 2006. [164780]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

The meeting of the Cost Review Group on 9 March was not minuted.

The minutes of the other Cost Review Group meetings will not be placed in the House Library as they are being used to inform the development of our ongoing policy for managing the Olympic project.

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid in consultancy fees by his Department in each year since 1997. [172076]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The amount paid in consultancy fees by the Department since 1997 are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 465,336 |
| 1998-99 | 329,911 |
| 1999-2000 | 588,321 |
| 2000-01 | 194,075 |
| 2001-02 | 318,416 |
| 2002-03 | 469,480 |
| 2003-04 | 473,785 |
| 2004-05 | 643,924 |
| 2005-06 | 1,161,306 |
| 2006-07 | 852,525 |

### Tourism: Finance

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will provide a breakdown of the £350 million spent by Government annually on supporting tourism, with reference to his evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on 25 October 2007. [171956]

**James Purnell:** Public sector tourism spending in 2006-07 is estimated as follows:

| *Organisation* | *Spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| VisitBritain | 49.9 |
| VisitScotland | 44.0 |
| VisitWales | 22.0 |
| Northern Ireland Tourist Board | 18.7 |
| Northern Ireland Tourist Board to the joint Northern Ireland/Eire Tourism Ireland marketing body | 12.6 |
| London Development Agency | 22.0 |
| London Unlimited (additional marketing and promotional funding for London) | 6.0 |
| Non-London Regional Development Agencies | 29.8 |
| English local authorities | 126.0 |
| Scottish local authorities | 4.4 |
| Welsh local authorities | 13.0 |
| Total | 348.4 |

### Tourism: Marketing

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* regional development agencies and *(c)* local authorities on marketing the UK as a tourist destination in each of the last three years. [171677]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* CMS has allocated the following amounts to marketing the UK and its constituent parts:

| | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| VisitBritain—Britain marketing | 35.50 | 35.50 | 35.50 |
| VisitBritain—England marketing | 13.40 | 14.40 | 15.15 |
| London Development Agency | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.90 |
| Total | 50.80 | 51.80 | 52.55 |

Regional development agencies are not asked to account specifically for there expenditure on tourism marketing. Their definitions are therefore not consistent and reliable. They have, however, provided us with the following estimates of expenditure:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 31.70 |
| 2006-07 | 27.90 |
| 2007-08 | 20.10 |

The £1.9 million a year in grant in aid from DCMS to the London Development Agency is included in these figures.

An additional £3.6 million a year in DCMS grant in aid was made available to the regional development agencies for each of these years for tourism support These amounts were not earmarked specifically for marketing.

It is not possible to provide figures for local authorities. Most local authorities across the UK support their local tourism industries through marketing and promotional spending. This is not, however, recorded separately from investment in general tourism support.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of Taliban commanders who have surrendered in Afghanistan as a result of *(a)* diplomatic and *(b)* military action. [172152]

**Des Browne:** Between 1 May 2005, when the Program-Tachim-e Sol' scheme was begun by the Government of Afghanistan, and 1 November 2007, some 4,600 former insurgents have sought reconciliation. No breakdown is available of the past status of these individuals or whether they entered the scheme as a result of diplomatic or military means.

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what length of time he expects to elapse before the 2nd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment is sent on its next operational tour; [172167]

(2) what the peace establishment was of the 2nd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment before deployment to Afghanistan; what the strength was of the Battalion; how many reinforcements to the Battalion were received from *(a)* the regular Army, *(b)* the Territorial Army and *(c)* the regular Army Reserves; how many of all ranks were (i) left behind on recruitment duties, (ii) physically unfit to deploy and (iii) left behind in barracks to form a rear party; and what the Battalions Battle casualty replacement policy is. [172168]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* Prior to their recent deployment to Afghanistan, the peace time establishment of the 2nd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment was 600; the Battalion's strength was 500; it received additional reinforcements of 200 Regular Army, fewer than 100 Territorial Army personnel and none from the Regular Army Reserves. Fewer than 100 soldiers remained in the United Kingdom on recruitment duties or were physically unfit to deploy. The rear party is made up of approximately 200 personnel, including a number of appropriately trained theatre reserve soldiers who can be deployed immediately if required.

The policy on battle casualty replacement is to use rear party deployable personnel. Should this not suffice to rectify a deficiency in a specific skill, replacements would be requested from other units in theatre.

As disclosure of exact numbers would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces. I have rounded all numbers to the nearest 100.

The force package for each operational tour is announced once it has been finalised. I cannot comment at this stage on the timing of the battalion's next operational tour.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many emergency maintenance requests were made for properties occupied by service personnel and their families in each of the last 12 months; and what the average length of time taken to carry out the maintenance was in each month. [170452]

**Derek Twigg:** The actual length of time taken to carry out the maintenance for individual requests is not recorded. Two areas within Northern Ireland routinely categorise all calls as urgent and have therefore not been included in this response. For the other three areas, the pro rata number of emergency requests made by service personnel and their families during the last 12 months was:

| | *Number of emergency requests made* |
|---|---|
| November 2006 | 22 |
| December 2006 | 13 |
| January 2007 | 19 |
| February 2007 | 16 |
| March 2007 | 21 |
| April 2007 | 8 |
| May 2007 | 4 |
| June 2007 | 2 |
| July 2007 | 4 |
| August 2007 | 1 |
| September 2007 | 2 |
| October 2007 | 7 |

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account is taken of the standards of accommodation for serving military personnel in the Government's overall policy for the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [170999]

**Derek Twigg:** The Government recognise that decent accommodation is a fundamental part of the package we give to our armed forces personnel and their families. We are taking a targeted and long-term approach to investing in accommodation, taking account of defence priorities across the board and the need to ensure value from public money.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of posts in his Department were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172251]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence is committed to achieving work force reductions of 10,000 civilians and 5,000 military administrative and support posts by the end of 2007-08. These are net targets and no posts will be reallocated to the frontline as part of them.

### Departmental Coordination

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 309W, on departmental co-ordination, on what date the Foreign and Commonwealth Office consulted his Department about the Bruges speech; and on what date his Department replied. [170435]

**Des Browne:** I refer my right hon. Friend to my previous answer on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 309W. The normal consultation between the FCO and the MOD on the Foreign Secretary's speech to the College of Europe in Bruges on 15 November occurred during the drafting of the speech.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent in near cash terms on entertainment and hospitality as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy in each financial year since 2000-01. [169344]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 11W, to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171404]

**Derek Twigg:** The strength and proportion of civilian personnel employed within each salary band is shown as follows:

*Strength and proportion of civilian personnel[1] by grade as at 1 April 2007*

| | *Strength* | *Headcount Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Senior civil service and equivalent[2] | 290 | 0.3 |
| Pay Band B | 2,520 | 2.5 |
| Pay Band C | 17,230 | 16.9 |
| Pay Band D | 12,430 | 12.2 |
| Pay Band E | 26,760 | 26.2 |
| Other non-industrial | 860 | 0.8 |
| Industrial | 13,600 | 13.3 |

*Strength and proportion of civilian personnel[1] by grade as at 1 April 2007*

| | Strength | Headcount Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Trading Fund staff | 10,250 | 10.1 |
| Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) | 2,360 | 2.3 |
| Locally engaged civilians | 15,650 | 15.4 |
| Total | 101,940 | 100 |

[1] Data include permanent and casual personnel employed by the Department, the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, Trading Funds and locally engaged civilians.
[2] The senior civil service was formed in 1996. The totals include about 50 personnel outside the senior civil service but of equivalent grade.
[3] All strengths are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.
*Source:*
DASA (Quad-Service)

The Ministry of Defence employs staff in many hundreds of different roles. I have placed in the Library of the House a complete list of the departmental grades, job families and job codes.

*(a)* Staff in the non-industrial broader banded groups and industrial skill zones (excluding Trading Funds) are eligible to receive end of year bonus awards based on relative assessment of performance against their peers. In 2007 up to 75 per cent. of non-industrial staff and 100 per cent. of industrial staff could be awarded one of three tiers of bonuses. For the senior civil service, bonuses are used to reward excellent performance during the year and the award is based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed against their peers. Fixed term employees brought into the Department through fair and open competition have contracts which allow for payment of a non-consolidated, performance related bonus, usually of a maximum of 10 per cent. of basic salary. Individual performance is judged by line managers and, for those who are agency chief executives, there is an annual audit of performance against agency key targets. The Agency owner then takes a view of the individual's performance guided by the independent audit agency and the remuneration committee. MOD also operates a special bonus scheme to reward civilian staff for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of professional qualifications which benefit MOD and the individual. Staff in Trading Funds are subject to separate arrangements which meet their business needs.

*(b)* All MOD civil servants are eligible to belong to a pension scheme. Most belong to the principal civil service pension scheme (PCSPS)—although there are a number of different schemes under the overall PCSPS umbrella. Some analogue grades—such as lecturers, teachers and medical grades—belong to the pension scheme appropriate to that profession such as the teachers pension scheme, the Scottish teachers pension scheme and the NHS pension scheme.

*(c)* An MOD employed civil servant is eligible to claim for the reasonable extra expense of travel and subsistence while on official duty. This may mean travel expenses by public transport, official or private vehicle, the actual bed and breakfast costs where overnight accommodation is required and the reimbursement of actual and reasonable additional meal and refreshment costs while undertaking the official duty.

*(d)* The total costs directly attributed to civilian staff, for travel and subsistence since 2003-04 (excluding Trading Funds, details for which are not held centrally) are:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 117.01 |
| 2004-05 | 127.61 |
| 2005-06 | 133.69 |
| 2006-07 | 135.78 |

There are additional costs in respect of personnel movements which include car hire, for both military and civilian personnel, which are attributed to one accounting code, for which the civilian cost element can be separately identified only at disproportionate cost.

Travel costs prior to 2003-04 were attributed to a common accounting code for both military and civilian personnel. Costs for civilian personnel could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

*(e)* The average age of departmental employees is shown as follows:

*Average age of MoD personnel[1] as at 1 April 2007*

| | Average age |
|---|---|
| Senior civil service and equivalent[2] | 51.7 |
| Pay Band B | 48.4 |
| Pay Band C | 46.7 |
| Pay Band D | 44.8 |
| Pay Band E | 44.4 |
| Other non-industrial | 44.7 |
| Industrial | 47.4 |
| Trading Fund Staff | 42.5 |
| Total | 45.3 |

1. Data include permanent and casual personnel employed by the Department, but exclude Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel and locally engaged civilians for whom age data are not centrally held.
[2] The senior civil service was formed in 1996. The totals include about 50 personnel outside the senior civil service but of equivalent grade.
*Source:*
DASA (Quad-Service)

*(f)* The number of (i) women and (ii) men employed by the Department is shown as follows:

*Strength of civilian personnel[1] by sex and grade as at 1 April 2007*

| | Female | Male | Headcount Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Senior civil service and equivalent[2] | 40 | 250 | 290 |
| Pay Band B | 520 | 2,000 | 2,520 |
| Pay Band C | 4,730 | 12,500 | 17,230 |
| Pay Band D | 4,630 | 7,800 | 12,430 |
| Pay Band E | 14,880 | 11,870 | 26,760 |
| Other non-industrial | 630 | 230 | 860 |
| Industrial | 2,740 | 10,850 | 13,600 |
| Trading Fund Staff | 2,150 | 8,100 | 10,250 |
| Sub total | 30,320 | 53,610 | 83,930 |
| Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)[3] | [4]— | [4]— | 2,360 |

*Strength of civilian personnel[1] by sex and grade as at 1 April 2007*

| | Female | Male | Headcount Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Locally engaged civilians[3] | [4]— | [4]— | 15,650 |
| Total | [4]— | [4]— | 101,940 |

[1] Data include permanent and casual personnel employed by the Department, the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, Trading Funds and locally engaged civilians.

[2] The senior civil service was formed in 1996. The totals include about 50 personnel outside the senior civil service but of equivalent grade.

[3] Gender data are not available for royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel and locally engaged civilian personnel.

[4] Not available.

*Note:*

All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

*Source:*

DASA (Quad-Service).

*(g)* The ethnic composition of the Department is shown as follows:

*Strength of civilian personnel[1] by ethnic origin and grade, as at 1 April 2007*

| | White | Ethnic minorities | Unknown | Headcount Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Senior civil service and equivalent[2] | 240 | [3]— | 50 | 290 |
| Pay Band B | 2,080 | 50 | 400 | 2,520 |
| Pay Band C | 14,020 | 400 | 2,820 | 17,230 |
| Pay Band D | 10,520 | 340 | 1,570 | 12,430 |
| Pay Band E | 22,430 | 880 | 3,450 | 26,760 |
| Other non-industrial | 660 | 30 | 170 | 860 |
| Industrial | 9,620 | 180 | 3,790 | 13,600 |
| Trading Fund Staff | 7,900 | 170 | 2,180 | 10,250 |
| Sub total | 67,450 | 2,060 | 14,430 | 89,930 |
| | | | | |
| Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)[4] | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 2,360 |
| Locally engaged civilians[4] | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 15,650 |
| Total | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 101,940 |

[1] Data include permanent and casual personnel employed by the Department, the Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, Trading funds and locally engaged civilians.

[2] The senior civil service was formed in 1996. The totals include about 50 personnel outside the senior civil service but of equivalent grade.

[3] Value less than 10.

[4] Ethnicity data are not available for Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel and locally engaged civilian personnel.

[5] Not available.

*Note:*

All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

*Source:*

DASA (Quad-Service).

### Nuclear Weapons

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected expenditure on the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme is *(a)* in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11 and *(b)* over the lifetime of the programme from 2005 to 2015. [170843]

**Des Browne:** Our financial planning for the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) from 1 April 2008 makes no distinction between management and operation costs and those associated with the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme (NWCSP), which we announced on 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 59WS. This reflects the incorporation of the NWCSP into the core AWE programme, expenditure on which over the next three years is expected to be:

| | £ million at outturn prices |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 800 |
| 2009-10 | 900 |
| 2010-11 | 950 |

On the same basis, expenditure at AWE over the last three years was:

| | £ million at outturn prices |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 493 |
| 2006-07 | 687 |
| 2007-08 (provisional) | 799 |

In line with our announcement of July 2005, some £1.1 billion of the expenditure for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 is associated with sustaining key skills and facilities.

Spending plans for 2011-12 and beyond will be set as part of the Government's spending review process.

### RAF Menwith Hill

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the decision was taken to give permission to the US Administration to use Menwith Hill in the Missile Defense system; who took the decision; and what *(a)* formal agreement and *(b)* memorandum of understanding was produced. [172359]

**Des Browne:** The Government's agreement to missile warning data being routed through RAF Menwith Hill for use in the US missile defence system was given in an exchange of classified letters between the US Defense Secretary (dated 29 June 2007) and the UK Secretary of State for Defence (dated 17 July 2007).

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government has been obliged to pay to the European Commission as a result of late payments under the new Single Farm Payment Scheme. [165965]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The current estimate of the total financial correction to be imposed on the UK for failure to meet payment deadlines in respect of the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) is around £70 million. No such corrections are expected for subsequent scheme years.

### Angling: Welsh Assembly Government

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he has received any representations on amending or reforming the main concordat with the Welsh Assembly Government on fishing; and if he will make a statement; [172024]

(2) whether he plans to change the main concordat with the Welsh Assembly Government on fishing; and if he will make a statement. [172025]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I currently have no such plans, nor am I aware of any representations to change the concordat with the Welsh Assembly Government in respect of fisheries.

### Avian Influenza: Disease Control

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions he has placed on the holding of *(a)* pigeon shows and *(b)* other bird shows because of avian influenza; and if he will make a statement. [170645]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: EU legislation requires that all bird gatherings are banned unless the member state is satisfied that a risk assessment shows that gatherings would not significantly increase the risk of avian influenza. Therefore, consistent with previous outbreaks, following confirmation of avian influenza in Suffolk on 12 November, all bird gatherings, including falconry displays, fairs, markets, shows (including pigeon shows), exhibitions and pigeon races, were banned throughout Great Britain. This is because in the immediate aftermath of an outbreak there is great uncertainty over undetected infection elsewhere in the country, which means that all bird gatherings are high risk activities.

This ban was kept under constant review, and following a veterinary risk assessment, all bird gatherings outside non-restricted areas were permitted again from 23 November. As before, this is under the normal general licence conditions of good biosecurity, notification to Animal Health seven days prior to an event and record-keeping. Also, birds coming from outside the British Isles (for example, the UK, Republic of Ireland and the Isle of Man but excluding the Channel Islands for these purposes) cannot be taken to a gathering for 28 days after their importation, and pigeons must be isolated from other birds for at least seven days after a race.

### Avian Influenza: Pigeons

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the Royal Pigeon Racing Association on movement restrictions imposed as a result of avian influenza; and if he will make a statement. [171660]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have received representations from the Royal Pigeon Racing Association as a result of the most recent avian influenza outbreak. They questioned the proportionality of placing a ban on all bird gatherings nationwide, which includes pigeon shows, markets and racing.

In the immediate aftermath of an outbreak, there is great uncertainty over undetected infection elsewhere in the country, which means that all bird gatherings are high risk activities. Following confirmation of avian influenza in Suffolk on 12 November, and consistent with EU requirements and previous outbreaks, all bird gatherings were banned throughout Great Britain.

In the case of the current outbreak and the outbreak at Holton earlier this year, we established within two weeks that the risk of disease circulating outside the restricted zones had returned to the normal low level. The ban was therefore lifted, outside restricted areas, from 23 November.

### Avian Influenza: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on accommodation for officials in Suffolk since the outbreak of avian influenza at Park Farm in Redgrave; and for *(a)* how many officials and *(b)* how long such accommodation was provided. [170125]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The latest information available indicates that the cost of providing hotel accommodation for officials working on the avian influenza outbreak between 12 November and 2 December was £121,300. 160 individuals were provided with accommodation for a total of 1,295 nights. These figures are subject to revision to take account of any confirmed changes to accommodation from our booking agent.

In an emergency, a large number of staff need to be found hotel rooms near to the local disease control centre at very short notice. DEFRA employs the services of an external provider to ensure that the most appropriate accommodation is secured and provides the best value for money.

### Climate Change: United Nations

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many officials are travelling to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali; and what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* volume of carbon dioxide produced by their flights; [172017]

(2) what consideration he gave to minimising carbon dioxide emissions in the organisation of the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali; and whether consideration was given to replacing the Conference with multi-lateral conference calls. [172018]

**Mr. Woolas:** The total number of UK Government (including agencies) delegates, including officials and Ministers, attending the UNFCCC conference in Bali is 47. The carbon dioxide emissions attributable to the Defra delegation's flights has been calculated to be 209 tonnes of $CO_2$ equivalent. The cost to offset this quantity of $CO_2$, via the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF), which offsets all UK Government ministerial and official travel overseas, is £2,071.19.

While much necessary contact can be made by electronic means, it is not possible to reach agreement among 192 countries on complex issues without meeting.

Significant multilateral and bilateral conference calls do of course, take place.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws; [168087]

(2) how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were; [168273]

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely; [168477]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data; [169216]

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171419]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168253]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* his Department or *(b)* his Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach; [168837]

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 requiring investigation there have been in the last five years in his Department; what the nature of such breaches were; and what the results of the investigations were in each case. [169257]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

In addition to this I also refer the hon. Member to a previous response made on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1028W, regarding the number of breaches.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years. [168811]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There have been no occasions where the Information Commissioner has been contacted by the Department to report breaches of data protection security.

In addition to this response I also refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [169898]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

In addition to this, I also refer the hon. Member to a previous response made on the 13 June 2007. *Official Report*, column 1028W, regarding the number of breaches.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171405]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In DEFRA, staff pay bands generally equate to administrative grade equivalents. The number and proportion of DEFRA staff employed in each grade equivalent as at 30 November 2007 is shown in the following table.

| *Grade equivalent* | *Full-time equivalents* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| AA | 116.81 | 3.5 |
| AO | 580.55 | 17.3 |
| EO | 603.00 | 18.0 |
| HEO | 844.28 | 25.1 |
| SEO | 372.53 | 11.1 |
| Grade 7 | 527.23 | 15.7 |
| Grade 6 | 158.01 | 4.7 |
| SCS | 156.57 | 4.7 |
| Total | 3,358.98 | 100.0 |

The bonus structure is as follows:

*For the SCS*

Non-consolidated cash payments, otherwise known as bonuses, reward in-year performances in relation to agreed objectives, or short term personal contribution to wider organisational objectives. Bonuses are paid in addition to base pay increases and do not count towards pension.

Bonuses are allocated by departments from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the SCS salary bill, which is agreed centrally each year following the SSRB recommendations. The intention is that bonus decisions should be differentiated in order to recognise the most significant deliverers of in-year performance.

*For Staff at Grade 6 and below*

The high performance bonus awards scheme introduced in April 2005 provide DEFRA staff with recognition and reward for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance that significantly exceeds normal expectations. The process should provide staff at all grades with an opportunity to earn a bonus, and ensure that achievements in operational, policy and corporate services areas are recognised as being of equal esteem.

There are two types of award:

> In-year high performance bonuses paid to individuals or teams in recognition of one-off achievements during the year; and
>
> Annual high performance bonuses which are paid to the top 10 per cent. of performers in each group for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance sustained throughout the whole year.

The latest published information on the gender breakdown and ethic composition of civil servants is as at 30 September 2006 and is available in tables N and O at:

> http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/CivilService2006TablesandCharts.xls.

The other information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171548]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Payment of non-consolidated performance bonuses reflects the principle across the civil service of rewarding performance through one-off, non-consolidated payments. End-of-year bonuses are awarded to staff for high performance sustained throughout the whole year.

The following table shows details of end-of year bonuses awarded to SCS staff in core-Defra and its Executive Agencies in accordance with Cabinet Office arrangements; and for staff below the SCS in core-Defra and those Agencies covered by the core-Department's reward arrangements (Animal Health, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Services). Data prior to 2005 are available only at disproportionate cost due to systems changes.

| | *Defra (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | — |
| 2004 | — |
| 2005 | 2,765,045 |
| 2006 | 2,568,449 |
| 2007 | 2,854,598 |

The total sums paid annually in performance bonuses equate to a little over 1 per cent. of paybill.

For staff below SCS in Defra's other Executive Agencies (Central Science Laboratory, Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Rural Payments Agency and Veterinary Laboratories Agency), who have pay delegation, the following table illustrates the amount of end-of year bonus payments over the last five years. For the RPA, data prior to 2004 are available only at disproportionate costs due to systems changes; and 2007 end-of-year bonuses have not yet been finalised.

£

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CSL | 117,937 | 140,095 | 143,743 | 176,901 | 233,049 |
| CEFAS | 310,000 | 360,000 | 530,000 | 650,000 | 680,000 |
| RPA | — | 323,567 | 249,025 | 243,072 | — |
| VLA | 33,065 | 30,777 | 35,034 | 39,120 | 45,357 |

## Departmental Postal Services

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many items of post sent by his Department and its predecessor were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171289]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and Agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

## Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what opinion polls his Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164952]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following surveys have been carried out by or on behalf of DEFRA since 27 June 2007:

| *Survey title* | *Purpose* | *Contracted research company* | *Anticipated cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| RPA Customer Satisfaction survey | Measure progress and impact of organisational changes and to identify areas for business improvement | Kadence | 80,928 |
| Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate Customer satisfaction survey | To monitor performance and customer satisfaction | DEFRA—in house | 1,740 |
| Veterinary Medicine Directorate Feedback Survey | To ensure that VMD can improve the services it provides to "paying" customers and formally show that it cares about its customers views | Cognition Market Intelligence | 50,000 |
| Natural England Stakeholder Survey | Establishing relationships with partner organisations which help to achieve outcomes for the natural environment | Market Research Services | 40,000 |
| Business Attitudes to Resource Efficiency | To monitor any changes in attitudes to the opportunities provided by the Business resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programmes | Continental research | 10,000 |
| Attitudes to Climate Change—wave 6 | To monitor attitudes towards, and understanding of, Climate Change following the implementation of its Climate Change Strategy | ICM | 31,436 |
| Chewing Gum Action Group Campaign evaluation | Tracking research to measure campaign awareness and to re-gauge attitudes | BMRB Social Research | 59,150 |
| Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restrictions of Chemicals (REACH) Awareness Raising Campaign tracking research | Tracking research to measure campaign success and to determine levels of awareness and implications of the policy | GFK | 31,350 |
| Natural Environment Communications Research | Baseline research about general attitudes and behaviour among citizens towards the Natural Environment | Edcomms | 41,200 |
| Identifying Key Water Saving Messages | To identify consumer awareness and attitudes towards water resources as well as citizens' ability to adopt water efficient practices | MVA Consultancy | 30,356 |
| Waste Infrastructure Research | To identify public awareness of knowledge and attitudes to waste disposal | Navigator | 58,550 |

## Energy: Conservation

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what investigations he has undertaken of the Cheltenham Rule to increase energy efficient methods in new builds and reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions. [163637]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

I understand the Cheltenham Rule is a proposal for metering energy use by developers. I have received no representations about the rule and I am not aware of any local authorities which have implemented anything equivalent.

In the Energy White Paper we set out our ambitions for all homes to incorporate smart meters and real time display devices. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform consultation on these proposals closed at the end of October 2007, and the Government are considering all views received during this consultation period and will make a further announcement in the new year.

## Fisheries: EU Law

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 512-13W, on fisheries: EU law, how the estimated costs of implementing the European rules on electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities have changed; and if he will make a statement. [171725]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The discussions between member states and the Commission on the detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation 1966/2006 on electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities and [illegible] of remote sensing will be completed shortly. Until these discussions are concluded, the estimates of costs provided to the House in July (19 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 512-13W ) are still believed to be the best estimates available.

### Fisheries: Protection

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency provisions are in place to provide fisheries enforcement in the event of all three river class offshore patrol vessels being unavailable for operation at the same time under the terms of the contract for the use of the Fishery Protection Squadron which enters into force on 1 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [171681]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The agreement drawn up, which enters into force with effect from 1 April 2008, does not provide any contingency for a situation where all three River Class vessels are unavailable for fishery protection duties. In discussion with the Ministry of Defence, the Marine and Fisheries Agency considered that the risk of having no fishery protection cover for any lengthy period was low. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Defence would seek to provide suitable replacement patrol vessels if there is extended "time off task" by one of the River Class Patrol vessels.

### Fisheries: Subsidies

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the press release issued on 27 November 2007 by his Department, how much funding the Government plan to provide to the fishing industry in addition to that provided by the European Fisheries Fund; and if he will make a statement. [171726]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The amount of money the Government intend to make available will be indicated in the financial tables of the draft Operational Programme for the European Fisheries Fund which will be subject to a consultation. This will be a 12-week consultation which I expect to commence early in 2008.

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Compensation

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid to Scottish farmers and crofters by the UK Government consequent upon the 2001 outbreak of foot and mouth disease; and what proportion of this was compensation for *(a)* the culling of livestock and *(b)* economic losses. [167731]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Based on the Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture, the total compensation payments made to Scottish farmers and crofters for animals culled during the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak was £189.713 million. No payments were made for economic losses.

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Wiltshire

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of the compensation allocated to farmers following the foot and mouth crisis in August has been allocated to Wiltshire. [171022]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Animal Health Act 1981 and Human Rights legislation requires that compensation is paid for animals compulsorily killed and property compulsorily destroyed to prevent the spread of disease. Therefore, as there was no foot and mouth disease in Wiltshire, no compensation has been paid to farmers there.

As part of the £12.5 million support package announced on 8 October, farmers in Wiltshire will benefit from the £2 million allocated to promote the sales of lamb, beef and pork domestically and in our export markets, which we are doing all we can to return to normal within the EU by January. They will also have access to the support provided through a donation of up to £1 million to the Arthur Rank Centre for disbursement to Farming Help charities, which provide advice and practical and emotional support to farming families.

### Gleadthorpe Farm

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* the market value and *(b)* his Department's valuation is of his Department's Gleadthorpe Cottages in Meden Vale. [170559]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: The 15 residential dwellings at Gleadthorpe farm reverted back to direct Departmental management following the surrender of the ADAS farm tenancy on 28th September 2007.

The only valuation the Departmental has commissioned to date is a market valuation assuming vacant possession for the purposes of making 'offers to purchase' to the qualifying tenants in line with the right to buy provisions under the Housing Act. This is the appropriate valuation basis for the market value provided.

The market value of the cottages as reported by the Department's valuer is £1,825,000.

The Department does not currently have any other valuations of the cottages.

### Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167933]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Neither DEFRA nor its executive agencies provide private health insurance to any members of staff as part of their employment package.

## Livestock: Disease Control

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the Department's plans to introduce cost-sharing with farmers for the control of animal diseases. [170648]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We aim to consult before the end of the year on principles and possible options for implementing responsibility and cost-sharing measures for the control of animal diseases.

## Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165269]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally the core-department's expenditure with Opinion Leader Research in the financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08 (to date) is as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Expenditure* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 38,661.36 |
| 2004-05 | 116,207.50 |
| 2005-06 | 88,953.62 |
| 2006-07 | 171,017.72 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 48,833.59 |

The department does not hold centrally the title and purpose of each project, and the dates on which the project was put to tender, carried out, completed and its findings put to the department. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Poultry Meat: Labelling

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has considered taking to introduce clearer labels and guidance on poultry meat for consumers; and if he will make a statement. [171072]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* Labelling and guidance for consumers on poultry meat extends to various product attributes and advice on cooking and handling and the Food Standards Agency is the lead Government Department on general food labelling and guidance. Labelling on poultry meat, in common with all foods, is also subject to the legislative requirements on food labelling. Specific provisions governing marketing standards and labelling of (uncooked) poultry meat are laid down in EU regulations, notably Council Regulation No. 1906/90 and Commission Regulation No. 1538/91 (both as amended). As the EU Commission are in the process of reviewing the latter, decisions on labelling in these areas are likely to await the outcome of this.

## Radioactive Materials: Waste Management

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the extent to which proposers of any new nuclear stations should be responsible for the costs of nuclear waste management, with reference to his reply on a blog on energy and environmental policy hosted by the No. 10 Downing Street website on 19 November, that it would be for the proposers of any nuclear power stations to cover the cost of nuclear waste primarily. [167910]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government set out in our recent public consultation "The Future of Nuclear Power" our preliminary view that it is in the public interest to give private sector energy companies the option of investing in new nuclear power stations. In the event that we confirm our preliminary view, the consultation sets out in detail, a process to design financing arrangements that will ensure nuclear power station operators accumulate sufficient funds to meet their costs of waste disposal and decommissioning and that these funds are secure, even in extreme situations, such as insolvency. This mechanism would be set out in legislation.

## Sugar Beet

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will seek to ensure that British Sugar's application to surrender quota back to the EU is not agreed unless British Sugar agrees terms for compensation to Shropshire *(a)* sugar beet growers and *(b)* contractors whose businesses are affected. [171166]

**Jonathan Shaw:** British Sugar's application, including these elements, is under active consideration and we shall announce in due course the envisaged distribution of aid in the event that the application is approved.

## Young People

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department and its predecessors *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171274]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on the age of new entrants to the Department is available only from 2004 and is shown in the following table.

| | *Number of 16 to 18-year-olds recruited* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 23 |
| 2005 | 23 |
| 2006 | 6 |
| 2007 (to 30 November) | 3 |

The other information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Airports

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the significance of civilian use of Kandahar International Airport to the economic development of Regional Command South in Afghanistan. [170820]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID has made no assessment of the significance of civilian use of Kandahar International airport to the economic development of Regional Command South. However, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is planning to commission an assessment of civil use of the airport in January 2008, as part of a wider economic assessment of the region. We shall seek a copy of their assessment in due course.

### Africa: Health Services

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the Maputo Plan of Action; and how he intends to support the African Union and African national governments' implementation of the Maputo Plan of Action. [173218]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID fully supports the aims of the African Union Maputo Plan of Action on Maternal health which is consistent with the DFID strategy 'Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action'.

At regional level, DFID works closely with the African Union Commission and others responsible for the Maputo Plan.

DFID recently pledged an additional £100 million over five years to the UNFPA global programme for reproductive health commodity security (GPRHCS). The aim is to increase sexual and reproductive health supplies in developing countries and to develop capacity to resolve problems of sexual reproductive health commodity insecurity

We will continue to work closely with governments. For example, in Sierra Leone we are providing £50 million over the next 10 years to rebuild the health system to deliver basic services in sexual, reproductive and child health. In Kenya DFID is supporting a £7.5 million essential health services project over five years, working alongside the government and with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the European Commission (EC). This will include strengthening reproductive maternal health services (in Nyanza province) and the provision of socially marketed contraceptives.

### AIDS: Children

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the progress of his strategy for supporting children with AIDS. [172499]

**Mr. Thomas:** Tackling the needs and rights of children affected by AIDS remains at the heart of the DFID response. DFID is committed to spending at least £150 million to meet the needs of children affected by AIDS over three years to 2008.

DFID is working with UNICEF to support national orphans and vulnerable children plans in 13 African countries, to help ensure such plans are fully in line with broader national HIV/AIDS plans, and other social sector plans, especially education, health and social welfare.

Strengthening health services is the most sustainable way to improve child health and to address the health aspects of HIV and AIDS. The International Health Partnership, launched by the Prime Minister in September 2007, will help ensure that donor resources are better co-ordinated, that they back strong national health development plans and that they focus on strengthening the health systems that deliver better services.

We are also supporting social protection interventions in seven African countries. These programmes are providing predictable and regular cash transfers to households looking after vulnerable children which have been shown to be a simple and cost-effective way to ensure children get the nutrition, education and health care they need.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171442]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has produced its own Christmas cards since 2004 for partners and stakeholders. Prior to this DFID purchased cards from UNICEF.

The information requested is in the following table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003 | [1]4,500 |
| 2004 | [2]2,211 |
| 2005 | [2]2,102 |
| 2006 | [2]2,169 |
| 2007 | [3]2,674 |

[1] 6,000 cards purchased from UNICEF. [2] 7,000 cards. [3] Expected costs (7,000 cards).

DFID does not pay for Christmas parties or decorations.

### Ethiopia: Foreign Exchange

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what currency transactions over the value of £25,000 have been made by his Department involving changing pounds sterling into local currency in Ethiopia in the last six months. [171960]

**Mr. Thomas:** In the last six months DFID Ethiopia has made the following transfers from sterling into Ethiopian birr:

| Date | £<br>Value |
|---|---|
| 27 July 2007 | 250,627.57 |
| 8 October 2007 | 250,000.00 |

### Indonesia: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development projects his Department has sponsored in the Papua region of Indonesia; and what their budgets are for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [172056]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID has funded the following programmes in Papua province during the period in question:

(i) through the decentralisation support facility, assistance is being provided to the provincial government of Papua to strengthen its capacity in areas such as public financial management, infrastructure and community-driven development. It is difficult to identify precise budgets for these activities as they form part of a broader programme for Eastern Indonesia, but approximate figures are £150,000 for calendar year 2007, and £300,000 for 2008.

(ii) the UK-Indonesia multi-stakeholder forestry programme (MFP) has operated in Papua, among other regions. Activities under this programme include support for forest policy reform, indigenous and other local community land rights, economic livelihoods, and tackling deforestation and illegal logging. Further information on this innovative programme can be found in the book 'Aid That Works', published in 2006 and available from DFID. Funding under MFP for Papua in 2007-08 is likely to amount to approximately £120,000. Funding levels for 2008-09 have not yet been set.

(iii) through the Indonesia Partnership Fund for HIV/AIDS (IPF), DFID is supporting the strengthening of the two Provincial AIDS Commissions for Papua and West Papua, as well as district AIDS Commissions, primarily through the National AIDS Commission Secretariat. In addition, Family Health International and the Indonesian HIV Prevention and Care Project both have HIV programmes in Papua and West Papua which receive support from DFID through the IPF. This work focuses on health system strengthening, providing care, support and treatment to people living with HIV, and prevention of sexual transmission of HIV in the two provinces. It is not possible to disaggregate the financial disbursement data sufficiently to indicate expenditure by province without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Iraq: Electricity

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department has implemented to improve the availability of electricity to local people in *(a)* Basra, *(b)* Maysan, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Al Muthanna provinces; and how much was spent on such projects in each year since 2003. [170815]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Since 2003, DFID has allocated over £100 million for infrastructure regeneration projects. This has helped create employment for several thousand Iraqis in repairing some of southern Iraq's key infrastructure. We have already added or secured 415 MW of electricity to the Iraqi national grid, and will be adding or securing a further 60 MW over the next few months—this is the equivalent to providing 24 hour electricity for around one million people. This has been achieved by repairing damaged electricity transmission and distribution networks, including transmission lines from Al-Hartha power station to Basra city (securing electricity supplies for 1.5 million residents), and the Al-Hartha power station chimney (securing electricity supplies for 340,000 people).

Since 2003, we have spent the following amounts to improve electricity in southern Iraq (we do not have this information broken down by individual governorates).

|  | *£ million*<br>*Support to electricity sector* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 8 |
| 2004-05 | 6 |
| 2005-06 | 7 |
| 2006-07 | 7 |

### Kuwait

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's personnel were based in Kuwait in support of Operation Telic in each year since 2003. [170821]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Five DFID staff were based in Kuwait in early 2003 and were involved in civil/military liaison and co-ordination with UN agencies. From April 2003, all DFID personnel moved to either Baghdad or Basra.

### Microcredit Summit Campaign

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help achieve the targets of the Microcredit Summit Campaign to ensure that 175 million of the world's poorest families, especially women, are receiving credit for self-employment and other financial and business services by the end of 2015. [173090]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID regards microcredit as part of a broader strategy to promote financial sectors that are stronger and more inclusive of the needs of poor people, including women. The UK's 2006 White Paper on International Development commits us to tackle the barriers that prevent poor people from gaining access to markets and financial services, and supporting microfinance initiatives, particularly in partnership with banks and regulators.

DFID currently supports 58 financial sector initiatives, which include microcredit and business development services, in 25 countries. By May 2007, DFID had contributed approximately £180 million to financial sector programmes. A further £140 million has already been committed to support existing programmes in future years.

### Reviews

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* task forces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to initiate; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [169858]

**Mr. Thomas:** Information on consultations is published on the 10 Downing street website at:

www.pm.gov.uk.

Other reviews, consultations and task forces currently under way are listed in the following table.

DFID's Evaluation Department carries out 20 to 25 independent evaluations per year, which are published on the website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

When drawing up its country assistance plans and other policies, DFID uses various means of consultation, including using working groups and formal written consultations to engage with local, regional and UK stakeholders. These often include partner governments, local and UK civil society, other donors, international agencies, academia and other UK Government Departments.

| | *Start* | *Finish* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Consultations* | | | |
| Burundi country engagement plan | Around February 2008 | Not yet specified | Preparation of country engagement plan. |
| Hunger Alliance | Regular discussions | Ongoing | Discussions with NGOs about hunger in Africa. |
| Kenya country assistance plan | December 2007 | January 2008 | Preparation of country assistance plan. |
| Indonesia strategy | Autumn 2007 | Early 2008 | Consultation on programmes with government, donors and other stakeholders. |
| *Task force* | | | |
| UK remittances task force. (This is an industry task force led by the private sector, with banks, money transfer operators and industry associations as members.) | February 2006 | No specific time line has been defined for this task force. | The aim is to reduce barriers to remittance flows from the UK to developing countries. |

### Sierra Leone: Politics and Government

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department plans to give to the newly elected Members of Parliament in Sierra Leone. [173417]

**Mr. Thomas:** Under the programme Promoting Information and Voice for Transparency on Elections' DFID is funding the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) to provide a number of seminars to newly elected Members of Parliament (MPs) in Sierra Leone. On 19 and 20 November, a cross-party delegation of UK MPs delivered the first seminar on 'Becoming an Effective MP'. A further two seminars, on the role of MPs in Opposition and the role of MPs in Government, will be delivered in January/February 2008.

In addition, under the first phase of a new Parliamentary Strengthening Programme', delivered through the National Democratic Institute (NDI), DFID is supporting a co-ordinated induction programme for new MPs in the Sierra Leone Parliament. This includes an assessment of the existing capacity/needs of MPs, development of a Members' Directory and training on the representative responsibilities of MPs.

Support to specific Parliamentary Committees is also planned. This will include assistance to the Public Accounts Committee to effectively scrutinise public accounts on the basis of the Auditor General's reports. If Parliament requests, DFID may fund a further phase of this 'parliamentary strengthening programme'.

## TRANSPORT

### Biofuels

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the potential of second-generation bio-fuels. [170549]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Advanced biofuel production processes, including so-called "second generation" biofuels, offer the potential to deliver very high levels of greenhouse gas savings from the transport sector in a highly sustainable way. This is principally because they may allow liquid transport fuels to be produced efficiently from a much wider range of sources than is possible today (including wood, agricultural residues and the organic fraction of municipal waste).

Many of these processes are proven at laboratory scale, and a number of demonstration projects are up and running in various parts of the world. There remains considerable uncertainty, however, as to whether, and if so when, they will become viable at commercial scale.

European Union Heads of Government have made clear that future biofuel targets (including the 10 per cent. by 2020 target agreed at the March 2007 European Council) should be conditional on second generation biofuels becoming commercially available. This is to ensure that these targets can be delivered in a sustainable and cost-effective way.

The UK Government are aiming to incentivise the development of advanced biofuels under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. Further details of how this might be done are set out in a policy paper which is available via the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/rtfo/secrtfostake/informalpolicypaper.

### Crossrail Line

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what oversight will be provided by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Mayor of London of cost management of Crossrail construction; [163300]

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (2) what estimate she has made of the proportion of the contribution to Crossrail to be made by London business identified in the pre-Budget report which will be made by *(a)* the Corporation of London, *(b)* the Canary Wharf Group and *(c)* BAA; [164558]

(3) what her Department's responsibilities are regarding the oversight of the construction of Crossrail; what responsibilities she is delegating to the Mayor of London; and if she will make a statement. [164559]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement on Crossrail made by the Secretary of State on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 4-5WS.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the total amount of carbon emissions produced by her Department in each year since 1997. [172344]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport has submitted annual returns on energy usage and road mileage to the Sustainable Development Commission. The following represents those figures in the form of carbon emissions.

| | *Carbon emissions (kgC)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 6,864,725 |
| 2003-04 | 7,903,546 |
| 2004-05 | 9,615,941 |
| 2005-06 | 10,580,772 |
| 2006-07 | 10,632,494 |

### Departmental Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171446]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is set out in the following table. Figures are inclusive of VAT.

£

| *Christmas:* | *2006* | *2005* | *2004* | *2003* | *2002* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Central Department* | | | | | |
| *(a)* | 2,058 | 1,780 | 2,114 | 2,055 | 859 |
| *(b)* | — | — | — | — | — |
| *(c)* | 1,972 | 1,042 | 801 | [1]— | [1]— |
| *Highways Agency* | | | | | |
| *(a)* | 3,750 | 3,050 | — | 3,930 | [1]— |
| *(b)* | — | — | — | — | — |
| *(c)* | — | — | — | — | — |
| *Maritime and Coastguard Agency* | | | | | |
| *(a)* | 8,484 | 1,769 | 5,902 | 4,865 | 5,147 |
| *(b)* | 6,839 | 6,621 | 5,991 | — | — |
| *(c)* | — | — | — | — | — |
| *Vehicle and Operator Services Agency* | | | | | |
| *(a)* | — | 664 | 309 | 282 | n/a |
| *(b)* | — | — | — | — | n/a |
| *(c)* | — | — | — | — | n/a |
| *Vehicle Certification Agency* | | | | | |
| *(a)* | — | — | — | 174 | [1]— |
| *(b)* | — | — | — | — | [1]— |
| *(c)* | — | — | — | — | [1]— |
| *Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency* | | | | | |
| *(a)* | 2,879 | 2,981 | 3,465 | [1]— | [1]— |
| *(b)* | — | — | — | — | — |
| *(c)* | — | — | — | — | — |
| *Driving Standards Agency* | | | | | |
| *(a)* | 2,641 | 3,213 | 1,034 | 2,009 | [1]— |
| *(b)* | — | — | — | — | — |
| *(c)* | — | — | — | — | — |
| *Government Car and Despatch Agency* | | | | | |
| *(a)* | — | — | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(b)* | — | — | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *(c)* | [1]— | [1]— | n/a | n/a | n/a |

[1] No data.

*Notes:*

1. Vehicle and Operator Services Agency was formed in 2003.
2. Government Car and Despatch Agency became an agency of the Department in 2005

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was paid in consultancy fees by the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions between 1997 and May 2002; [171781]

(2) how much was paid in consultancy fees by her Department in each year since its establishment. [171997]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** For details of consultancy fees paid by the Department in each year since it was established I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 852-53W.

Due to machinery of government changes that took place in May 2002 information on what predecessor Departments spent on consultancy is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Manpower

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of posts in her Department have been recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172261]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department is committed to achieving work force reductions of 700 full-time equivalent posts by the end of 2007-08. The Department's response to Sir Peter Gershon's efficiency review does not include plans for any recategorisation of posts, only to achieve a net reduction.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions she has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171310]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by her Department in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172434]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The standard terms and conditions used for the purchase of goods and services prohibit the assignment of debt without the prior written consent of the Department.

### Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by her Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167947]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The last full year for which these figures are available is the 2006-07 fiscal year. In that fiscal year, the Department and its agencies spent £23,966,258 on advertising.

The majority of advertising investment by the central Department is in support of the THINK! road safety and Act on $CO_2$ campaigns. Figures for recruitment advertising for specific posts are not included in this figure. These are not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining her Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170226]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Corporate identity guidelines are generally published electronically on intranets. There is no annual cost.

The annual cost of guidelines that are produced as printed documents for staff in the Department and agencies is £1,325.

In producing publications and other relevant materials there are no additional costs involved in complying with corporate guidelines. Using corporate templates generally reduces design costs.

### Departmental Relocation

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166561]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are no plans in place to relocate any of the Department's offices to the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. The Department remains firmly committed to examining the possibility of relocation opportunities in the future where this meets business need and delivers benefits.

### Departmental Travel

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to reduce the amount of travel her officials undertake. [168680]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport and its agencies have policies in place which require officials to consider alternative communication methods, such as video and teleconferencing, before deciding to travel, and then to travel only when strictly necessary. The Department has introduced a sustainable travel policy which requires officials to plan their travel effectively considering not only economy, but also environmental impact in choice of travel mode.

Across the wider Department further initiatives to reduce business travel and its impact are being introduced. These include car and lift sharing schemes, national travel plans and reductions in travel budget targets.

Measures are also being introduced to reduce the impact of commuting including flexible and remote working and cycle to work schemes.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171328]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation, are contained in the "Overseas Travel by Cabinet

Ministers" list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Fisheries: Compensation

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of whether the arrangements made by London Gateway Port for a disturbance compensation scheme comply with the conditions of approval for the development. [172163]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The London Gateway Port disturbance payments scheme is a commercial matter between London Gateway Port Ltd. and local fishermen affected by dredging operations for port construction. The scheme is not a condition of the Secretary of State's approval for the development.

### Fishing Vessels

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK fishing vessels have been lost at sea in the last 12 months. [171683]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Between 1 December 2006 and 30 November 2007 reports of 13 accidental losses at sea of UK registered fishing vessels were received by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

### Great Western Trains

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the performance of First Great Western in operating its train franchise. [170740]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Improving rail performance is a key objective for the Department for Transport. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and First Great Western to address performance issues. Additionally, First Great Western has implemented a 40-point recovery plan. These are monitored monthly. I recently met with First Great Western's new chief operating officer and Network Rail's new route director to discuss performance.

In the year to 13 October 2007 FGW achieved an average punctuality of 82.6 per cent. across the franchise as a whole and 84.5 per cent. during the preceding four week period.

### Heathrow Airport: Noise

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the role continuous descent approach can play in mitigating noise from Heathrow airport. [170672]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Aircraft landing at Heathrow are required whenever practicable to follow continuous descent approach or "low power, low drag" procedures, although the main noise benefits are outside the 57dBA Leq noise contour. This is consistent with the recommendations in the industry Code of Practice "Noise from Arriving Aircraft ; An Industry Code of Practice" on the benefits of CDA as a means of reducing both fuel burn and noise. The Code of Practice can be accessed on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk).

### Heathrow Airport: Publicity

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many households have been sent the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport Summary consultation document, broken down by *(a)* London borough and *(b)* ward; and if she will make a statement. [172715]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* More than 200,000 households around Heathrow have been sent a copy of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport summary consultation document and response form. This included over 165,000 households in 54 wards in seven London boroughs.

By London borough the breakdown of households which received these documents is as follows (all figures rounded to the nearest 100).

| *London borough* | *Delivery addresses* |
|---|---:|
| Ealing | 4,600 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 22,700 |
| Hillingdon | 10,100 |
| Hounslow | 71,400 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 300 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 36,900 |
| Wandsworth | 19,100 |

By ward the breakdown is as follows:

| *Ward* | *Borough* | *Delivery address* |
|---|---|---:|
| Elthorne | Ealing | 100 |
| Northfield | Ealing | 1,800 |
| Norwood Green | Ealing | 800 |
| Southall Green | Ealing | 1,900 |
| Fulham Broadway | Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,700 |
| Fulham Reach | Hammersmith and Fulham | 800 |
| Munster | Hammersmith and Fulham | 4,200 |
| Palace Riverside | Hammersmith and Fulham | 3,000 |
| Parsons Green and Walham | Hammersmith and Fulham | 4,000 |
| Sands End | Hammersmith and Fulham | 4,800 |
| Town | Hammersmith and Fulham | 4,200 |
| Botwell | Hillingdon | 400 |
| Heathrow Villages | Hillingdon | 4,400 |
| Pinkwell | Hillingdon | 3,800 |
| Townfield | Hillingdon | <50 |
| West Drayton | Hillingdon | 1,500 |
| Bedfont | Hounslow | 2,900 |
| Brentford | Hounslow | 5,300 |
| Chiswick Homefields | Hounslow | 1,400 |
| Chiswick Riverside | Hounslow | 4,800 |
| Cranford | Hounslow | 4,000 |

| *Ward* | *Borough* | *Delivery address* |
|---|---|---|
| Feltham North | Hounslow | 3,900 |
| Hanworth | Hounslow | 1,800 |
| Hanworth Park | Hounslow | 1,500 |
| Heston Central | Hounslow | 3,800 |
| Heston East | Hounslow | 3,900 |
| Heston West | Hounslow | 4,000 |
| Hounslow Central | Hounslow | 4,300 |
| Hounslow Heath | Hounslow | 4,600 |
| Hounslow South | Hounslow | 3,900 |
| Hounslow West | Hounslow | 3,700 |
| Isleworth | Hounslow | 5,000 |
| Osterley and Spring Grove | Hounslow | 4,400 |
| Syon | Hounslow | 5,300 |
| Turnham Green | Hounslow | 2,800 |
| Cremorne | Kensington and Chelsea | 300 |
| Barnes | Richmond upon Thames | 3,100 |
| East Sheen | Richmond upon Thames | 3,900 |
| Heathfield | Richmond upon Thames | 3,900 |
| Kew | Richmond upon Thames | 5,100 |
| Mortlake and Barnes Common | Richmond upon Thames | 4,900 |
| North Richmond | Richmond upon Thames | 4,700 |
| South Richmond | Richmond upon Thames | 3,600 |
| St. Margarets and North Twickenham | Richmond upon Thames | 1,200 |
| Twickenham Riverside | Richmond upon Thames | 200 |
| West Twickenham | Richmond upon Thames | 3,300 |
| Whitton | Richmond upon Thames | 3,000 |
| East Putney | Wandsworth | 100 |
| Latchmere | Wandsworth | 4,000 |
| Queenstown | Wandsworth | 1,500 |
| Roehampton | Wandsworth | 900 |
| St. Mary's Park | Wandsworth | 5,400 |
| Thamesfield | Wandsworth | 4,700 |
| West Putney | Wandsworth | 2,600 |

### Heathrow Airport: Security

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on the efficiency of security procedures at Heathrow; and what discussions she has had with BAA on reducing security queuing times at Heathrow. [168667]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with the Home Secretary, Home Office Ministers and companies in the aviation sector on a range of issues of mutual interest, including airport security. We recently published 'Improving the Air Passenger Experience' which explains what the end-to-end journey experience looks like for passengers using Heathrow and sets out what improvements are already under way.

### Level Crossings: Frinton-on-Sea

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects on safety of changing the protected manual railway gate at Frinton-on-Sea railway crossing to a gate controlled remotely and monitored by closed circuit television. [172313]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 92W.

### Lewes-Uckfield Railway Line

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department is undertaking on the possibility of re-opening the Lewes to Uckfield rail link. [170757]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department is not currently undertaking any work on the possibility of re-opening the Lewes to Uckfield railway. Local stakeholders are sponsoring a study into the re-opening which we expect to be completed in 2008.

### Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she continues to support the European Commission target of reducing average emissions from new cars sold in the EU to 130g/km by 2012. [164631]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We want to see challenging but achievable new car $CO_2$ targets. Ambitious mandatory targets are the best way to send strong signals to manufacturers to make major investments in new technology confidently. We therefore welcome the ambition shown by the Commission in suggesting a target of 130 g/km by 2012 but we also recognise, as the European Parliament recently has, that this would be extremely challenging given the length of lead times in the automotive sector.

We also believe that continued improvement is best achieved by setting a framework for the longer term. We are pressing for a second ambitious EU target, of 100g/km by 2020, or no later than 2025.

### Newcastle A1 Western Bypass

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government plans to widen the Newcastle A1 western bypass; and if she will make a statement. [168659]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency is currently investigating options for widening the A1 Newcastle western bypass. This work will help to inform a decision in due course on whether to take forward a widening scheme. The Highways Agency is also holding discussions with the developers of Newcastle Great Park regarding a planning condition attached to this development which requires them to widen the section of the A1 between the A696 and North Brunton junctions once they have reached a particular level of development on the site.

### Oxford-Cambridge Railway Line

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department is undertaking on *(a)* the possible re-opening of the York to Beverley rail-link and *(b)* in relation to the section of new track needed to create a Cambridge to Oxford rail link. [170748]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department is not undertaking any work on the possible re-opening of the York to Beverley rail link or the Cambridge to Oxford rail link.

East Riding of Yorkshire council has undertaken some work on the former and the East-West Rail Consortium has commissioned a detailed study into the Cambridge to Oxford rail link which should be completed shortly. The Department is in discussion with the Consortium.

### Passports: Postal Services

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passports returned by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority have been delivered by *(a)* standard mail and *(b)* recorded delivery in the last 12 months. [171191]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information is not held in the form requested.

### Railway Stations: Greater London

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether upgrading London Bridge station is included in the £150 million allocated by Delivering a Sustainable Railway White Paper to station improvements. [170753]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The upgrading of London Bridge station is part of the £5.5 billion Thameslink programme which was fully authorised in July 2007.

### Railway Stations: Reading

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget is for the upgrade of Reading station, as proposed in Delivering a Sustainable Railway, broken down by subheading; and when she expects work to *(a)* start and *(b)* finish on the upgrade. [170744]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The amount currently allocated for improvements at Reading station is some £425 million. The majority of this is for construction-related work but upwards of £70 million may be required for design and the necessary planning approvals. Work has already started on the design aspects and final completion of the project is planned for spring 2015.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the contracts which have been let for work on the upgrade of Reading station, as set out in Delivering a Sustainable Railway. [170746]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The work to enlarge Reading station is led by Network Rail, and contracts are a matter for them.

However, the company is required to improve capacity and performance, within agreed timescales and resources.

Network Rail can be contacted at:

Network Rail
40 Melton street
London
NW1 2EE

### Railways: Consultants

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on *(a)* consultants and *(b)* other costs relating to the Inter-city Express programme. [170736]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has committed a total of £6.7 million since late 2005 relating to the Inter-City Express programme, all of which was on consultants.

### Railways: Fares

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the recent increases in unregulated rail fares. [164635]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** In the absence of specific grounds for doing so, the Department has made no formal assessment of the recent increases in unregulated fares. However, we keep unregulated fares under review. The Department continues to listen to the representations of Passenger Focus and has invited them to take a greater role in commenting on the specification of future franchises.

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to increase consumer protection in relation to unregulated rail fares. [172884]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: There are currently no plans to increase consumer protection in relation to unregulated rail fares.

The setting of unregulated rail fares is a commercial decision for each train operating company. It is in their interests to provide an attractive range of fares and to encourage more passengers to use the railway.

The Department continues to listen to the representations of Passenger Focus and has invited them to take a greater role in commenting on the specification of future franchises.

### Railways: Franchises

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what premium was received by her Department from each rail franchise in the last year for which figures are available; [171981]

(2) what subsidy was provided to each rail franchise in the last year for which figures are available. [171982]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Details of subsidies and premiums received from, and paid by franchised train operating companies are available in 'National Rail Trends', which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). Copies are available in the Library of the House and on the ORR website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

### Railways: Land

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport of which disused rail lines her Department authorised the sale in each of the last 10 years; and which disused rail lines her Department is considering re-opening. [170749]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The disposal of non operational property owned by BRB (Residuary) Ltd. (BRBR) is governed by guidance issued to the company on 26 July 2007 which I outlined in my statement to Parliament on that date. A listing of all properties, including disused railway lines that are either held by BRBR or have been sold by the company is available on their website at:

http://www.brbr.gov.uk/property/property_listings

The disposal of railway property owned by Network Rail is undertaken in accordance with the conditions of their network license. Compliance with these conditions are monitored and enforced by the Office of Rail Regulation.

The Government priorities for rail as set out in the White Paper in July are improved reliability and safety and dealing with growth on the existing network. This does not envisage reopening lines in the period to March 2014. However, the Government would consider proposals for re-opening where these offer value for money and are fundable—it is for local promoters to make a case.

### Railways: Public Holidays

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on which railway lines services will not be running on Boxing Day. [172170]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: Full details of amended services over the Christmas period are available at

http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/service_bulletins/Christmas_and_New_Year_Summary2007.html.

### Railways: Southampton

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what schemes her Department is considering to improve rail links to the port of Southampton. [170750]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department announced on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 28WS, £44 million of funding through the productivity element of the Transport Innovation Fund towards rail gauge enhancement from the port of Southampton to the West Coast Main Line. The enhancement, when completed, will enable 9' 6" high containers to be conveyed on standard wagons on the route.

### Railways: Standards

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will seek the views of passengers who travel in Desiro Class 450 Units, on mainline services between Portsmouth and London on passenger comfort. [172134]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) has carried out an ergonomic study on the Class 450s based on customer (specifically Portsmouth passengers) feedback. The findings of this report have been independently reviewed by Passenger Focus, the passenger representation body and have been made public by SSWT on their website.

### Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the percentage of the Government's renewable transport fuels obligation which will come from *(a)* imports and *(b)* sustainable sources in 2010. [172136]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1233W.

### Roads: Rural Areas

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made on the effect on the quality of life in rural communities of standards of roads and levels of road usage; and if she will make a statement. [172400]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: Local highways in England are the responsibility of local highways authorities, and it is generally for them to determine standards of service and priorities. The Department's Guidance on Local Transport Plans (LTPs) for the period 2006 to 2011 indicated that in preparing their plans local authorities should consider how they could improve quality of life in their communities, including in rural areas. Authorities have been asked to assess progress in implementing their plans during 2008-09.

### Roads: West Midlands

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries were sustained by people aged (i) under 16, (ii) between 16 and 24, (iii) between 25 and 65 and (iv) over 65 years as a result of road traffic accidents in the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [173488]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of casualties *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured, who were (i) under 16, (ii) between 16 and 24, (iii) between 25 and 65 and (iv) over 65 years, resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in the West Midlands Government office region in each of the last five years is shown in the table.

*Number of casualties*

| | Killed | | | | | Seriously injured | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Under 16* | *16-24* | *25-64* | *65+* | *Total*[1] | *Under 16* | *16-24* | *25-64* | *65+* | *Total*[1] |
| 2002 | 20 | 72 | 158 | 56 | 306 | 414 | 782 | 1,375 | 259 | 2,879 |
| 2003 | 14 | 86 | 170 | 51 | 321 | 333 | 744 | 1,288 | 241 | 2,666 |
| 2004 | 14 | 80 | 137 | 54 | 286 | 348 | 709 | 1,241 | 217 | 2,565 |
| 2005 | 11 | 67 | 157 | 44 | 281 | 347 | 657 | 1,102 | 213 | 2,393 |
| 2006 | 16 | 89 | 148 | 51 | 304 | 272 | 645 | 1,073 | 215 | 2,278 |

[1] Includes cases where age was not given.

## Rolling Stock: Expenditure

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much her Department has spent on the procurement of the 1,300 carriages to be added to the rail network; [170741]

(2) how much her Department has spent on consultants in relation to the procurement of the 1,300 extra carriages to be added to the rail network. [170742]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has been involved in some initial procurement work, and has spent £226,000 on consultants. This is to assess the business case and technical specifications, to ensure they represent best value to the taxpayer.

## South West Trains: Rolling Stock

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 605W, on South West Trains: rolling stock, what assessment she has made of the difference in seated passenger comfort between the Desiro Class 450 units and the previous stock on the mainline journeys between Portsmouth and London; and if she will make a statement. [172149]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) have carried out an ergonomic study on the Class 450s compared with previous rolling stock. The findings of this report have been independently reviewed by Passenger Focus, the passenger representation body and have been made public by SSWT on their website.

## Southeastern Railway Company: Franchises

**Derek Conway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures her Department followed in making the recent franchise agreement with Southeastern Railway Company; and what assessment was made of the likely effect on fares for travellers from Sidcup and Albany Park stations before agreeing the franchise. [172556]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** In competing and awarding rail franchises, the Department's procedures comply with relevant procurement legislation and Office of Government Commerce guidelines. Evaluations of bids include checking compliance with the Department's fares policy. Such an assessment would not have been made at the level of detail to determine the impact on travellers from Sidcup and Albany Park stations.

The Southeastern franchise is limited to an average annual increase in regulated fares (including those for season tickets, full fare singles and returns) of RPI +3 per cent. for five years from 2007 reflecting the very significant investment in the franchise in recent years including more than £600 million in new rolling stock (some 408 new carriages) and £93 million in power supply, stations, depots and infrastructure.

A new zonal fares structure introduced Oyster Pay-As-You-Go smart ticketing on Southeastern in 2007 and will enable the introduction across national rail in London from 2009. It simplifies the current complex system of individually priced station-to-station fares.

In order to achieve this, and to maintain a coherent and balanced fare structure, some season ticket fares have been permitted to be increased above the otherwise maximum level.

## Southeastern Railway Company: Public Participation

**Derek Conway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential benefits to travellers from Sidcup and Albany Park stations of the formation of a stakeholder advisory board by the Southeastern Railway Company as part of the franchise agreement conducted by her Department. [172546]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Part of the successful bid to operate the Integrated Kent Franchise was the formation a company stakeholder advisory board.

Our review of the bid concluded that this proposal offered sufficient passenger benefit that it was included as a requirement of the franchise agreement. This was completed by April 2007. No specific assessment was made of the likely effect on a stakeholder advisory board on travellers from Sidcup and Albany Park stations.

## Transport Act 1981

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what files are held by her Department on Part Four of the Transport Act 1981; and if she will make a statement. [172408]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Part IV, covering sections 19 to 31 of the Act was repealed by the Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988. The Road Traffic Act 1988, or other legislation as appropriate, will contain any successor provisions. The Department will hold files on the range of topics mentioned in Part IV. If the hon. Member has a particular interest he should write with specific details and, within reason, the Department will seek to provide an informative response.

### Transport: Exhaust Emissions

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to include two-wheeled transport in her Department's review of low-carbon technologies. [172575]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

Budget 2007 announced that the Chancellor commissioned Professor Julia King to conduct a review into the fuels and technologies which over the next 25 years could de-carbonise transport. I refer the hon. Member to the terms of reference published by the review on 11 June 2007.

### West Coast Railway Line: Rolling Stock

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects new Pendolino carriages to be *(a)* procured for and *(b)* in operation on the West Coast Mainline. [170738]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Negotiations continue with Network Rail, Virgin Trains and Alstom to determine the optimal way of increasing capacity on the West Coast Main Line. I hope to be in a position to make a further announcement in the new year.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 11 December 2007*

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Bosnia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by the Government *(a)* through the EU and *(b)* on a bilateral basis in Bosnia-Herzegovina since the Dayton Peace Accords in November 1995. [170780]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: The inputted UK share of official development assistance (ODA) to Bosnia and Herzegovina through the EC, between 1995 and 2005, was £186 million. The total ODA through the EC was £1.06 billion. Other significant donors were Germany (approximately £220 million), France (approximately £174 million) and Italy (approximately £144 million).

The UK bilateral ODA to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1995 to 2006 was £42 million.

### Entry Clearances: Internet

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether his Department plans to make provision for visa applicants to apply online from British visa offices in those countries from which applications must now be made online; [173387]

(2) what accessibility criteria were considered when deciding to accept only online visa applications from nationals of certain countries; [173388]

(3) what the basis was of the decision to accept only online visa applications from nationals of certain countries. [173389]

**Dr. Howells:** UKvisas has not decided to prioritise certain nationals over others as a matter of policy. The on-line application facility was initially made available in North America and Europe where internet penetration is high and the technical obstacles to implementation were more easily addressed. The gradual roll-out to other countries is linked to the roll-out of the biometric visa programme.

Applications through Visa4UK are not mandatory. UKvisas will work with its commercial partners to facilitate take-up, depending on local needs.

### Slovakia: Terrorism

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent arrest in Slovakia of persons seeking to sell radioactive material to make a dirty bomb; and if he will make a statement. [173203]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We have received reports that on 28 November two Hungarian nationals and one Ukrainian national were arrested trying to sell Uranium near the Slovak-Hungarian border. The matter is still under investigation.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Adult Education

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Department of Health and *(b)* Department for Communities and Local Government on the health and social effects on older people of continued participation in learning. [167765]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: We recognise the many wider benefits of participation in learning and its vital contribution to personal health and wellbeing, community involvement and quality of life as people age. Learning helps older people to fulfil themselves as active citizens and as members of their families and communities. People who keep mentally and physically active not only live longer but live happier and more fulfilled lives and pursuing learning can play a real part in this. We remain committed to ensuring the continuing availability of a wide range of suitable learning opportunities in every area for adult learners, including older people, and have safeguarded funding for learning for personal and community development at £210 million through to 2010-11.

We continue to work closely with ministerial colleagues in the context of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Ageing Policy (DA(AP)), to take forward the Government's opportunity age strategy, to ensure that longer life is healthy and fulfilling and that older people can participate fully in society. Colleagues at the Department for Work and Pensions lead on Opportunity Age and we are working with them to deliver the opportunities for older people proposed in World Class Skills and in the Green Paper: In Work, Better Off, both published in July this year.

My officials are also working closely with their counterparts in Department of Health and Department for Communities and Local Government on the Opportunity Age Strategy Partnership Group, as well as its Sub-Group on Education and Training, and on the Task Group we have established to steer our reforms in Personal and Community Development Learning.

I know that there are concerns about the impact of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 on fee concessions for older learners and I must make clear that the regulations do not bar providers from offering fee discounts for learners aged 65 and over. They allow for such positive action provided that it can be objectively justified. I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

### Apprentices: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many apprenticeships were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years; [171009]

(2) how many people failed to complete apprenticeships in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [171026]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The table shows the number of apprenticeship starts, achievements and success rates (the proportion of those who complete apprenticeships in each year and achieve the full apprenticeship framework) from August-July in each year in East London local LSC area.

(Achievements and success rates for 2002/03 and figures at local authority level are not readily available.) The number of learners who started an apprenticeship and the number of achievements and success rates in each year are mutually exclusive.

| | *Starts (thousand)* | | *Achievements (thousand)* | | *Success rates (percentage)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Advanced apprenticeships*[1] | *Apprenticeships*[1] | *Advanced apprenticeships*[1] | *Apprenticeships*[1] | *Advanced apprenticeships*[1] | *Apprenticeships*[1] |
| 2002/03 | 0.6 | 1.5 | — | — | — | — |
| 2003/04 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 30.0 | 21.6 |
| 2004/05 | 0.7 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 23.8 | 28.3 |
| 2005/06 | 0.6 | 1.9 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 46.6 | 45.4 |
| 2006/07 | 0.5 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 60.0 | 59.7 |

[1] Figures for 2002/03 and 2003/04 are for Advanced Modern Apprenticeships and Foundation Modern Apprenticeships.
*Source:*
LSC's ILR

## Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164925]

**Mr. Lammy:** Two civil servants support the Secretary of State's special advisers. Both provide support of a non-political nature in accordance with the code of conduct for special advisers.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

## Engineering: Education

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* foundation degrees and *(b)* apprenticeships were offered in subjects related to (i) construction and (ii) engineering by each institution in London in each of the last five years. [169812]

**Bill Rammell:** The information requested is shown in the following tables. For *(a)*, the latest available information for Foundation Degree provision is shown in Table 1. Figures are not available for the years prior to 2004/05. The list for 2007-08 is provisional since the exercise of collating courses from all institutions is not yet completed. There are also some courses which are currently in development and these are listed separately.

For *(b)* the figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). Table 2 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in subjects related to construction and engineering from August-July in each year in the Greater London Region. Figures are shown for the last four years. Figures at institution level and figures for 2002/03 by Region are not readily available.

*Table 1: Construction and Engineering Foundation degrees in London*

| *Course title* | *Validating institution* | *Delivering institution* |
|---|---|---|
| *2004-05* | | |
| Construction and Surveying | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction Management | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Aeronautical Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aircraft Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aircraft Engineering Studies | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Automotive Engineering (Diesel Technology) | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aviation Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| *2005-06* | | |
| Architectural Technology | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction and Surveying | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction Management | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Building Services Engineering in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning | Kingston University | College of North West London |
| Aeronautical Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aircraft Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aircraft Engineering Studies | Kingston University | Kingston University |

*Table 1: Construction and Engineering Foundation degrees in London*

| *Course title* | *Validating institution* | *Delivering institution* |
|---|---|---|
| Automotive Engineering (Diesel Technology) | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aviation Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Construction Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Building Services Engineering | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| *2006-07* | | |
| Architectural Technology | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction and Surveying | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction Management | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction Management | Thames Valley University | Thames Valley University |
| Aeronautical Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aircraft Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aircraft Engineering Studies | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Automotive Engineering (Diesel Technology) | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aviation Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Construction Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| *2007-08 (provisional list)* | | |
| Architectural Technology | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction and Surveying (Building Surveying Option) | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction and Surveying (Quantity Surveying Option) | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction Management | University of Westminster | College of North West London |
| Construction Management | Thames Valley University | Thames Valley University |
| Aeronautical Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aircraft Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aircraft Engineering Studies | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Automotive Engineering (Diesel Technology) | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Aviation Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| Construction Engineering | Kingston University | Kingston University |
| *Additional provision - courses in development 2007-08 (provisional list)* | | |
| Construction (Building Crafts & Building Services) | Kingston University | Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College |
| Construction (Conservation Technology & Management) | Kingston University | Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College |
| Architectural Technology | Thames Valley University | Thames Valley University |
| Building Services | Thames Valley University | Thames Valley University |
| Building Services Engineering (options in Electrical, Plumbing & HVAC) | London South Bank University | College of North West London |
| Marine Engineering | University of Greenwich | University of Greenwich |

*Notes:*

The lists are extracts from the Foundation Degree Forward (fdf) database of Foundation degrees.

Information held in this database is supplied directly to fdf by universities and colleges.

Only courses that were/are actually running (students enrolled) are included in the lists. Courses offered in all modes of study are included.

*Source:*

Foundation Degree Forward (FDF)

*Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in subjects related to construction and engineering*

| | *Advanced Apprenticeship* | *Apprenticeship* |
|---|---|---|
| *2003/04*[1] | | |
| Electrotechnical | 154 | 145 |
| Engineering | 200 | 45 |
| Engineering Construction | 31 | 0 |
| Construction | 50 | 258 |
| Plumbing | 77 | 247 |
| Aviation | 0 | 8 |
| Electricity Industry | 3 | 0 |
| Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration | 61 | 71 |
| Motor Industry | 186 | 258 |
| Gas Industry | 1 | 0 |
| Building Services Engineers | 4 | 0 |
| Electrical and Electronic Servicing | 37 | 4 |

*Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in subjects related to construction and engineering*

| | *Advanced Apprenticeship* | *Apprenticeship* |
|---|---|---|
| *2004/05* | | |
| Electrotechnical | 94 | 150 |
| Engineering | 196 | 120 |
| Engineering Construction | 15 | 0 |
| Metals Industry | 0 | 1 |
| Construction | 45 | 366 |
| Plumbing | 42 | 267 |
| Aviation | 0 | 6 |
| Transport Engineering and Maintenance | 0 | 6 |
| Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration | 61 | 77 |
| Automotive Industry | 168 | 286 |
| Gas Industry | 0 | 18 |
| Industrial Applications | 0 | 13 |
| Electrical and Electronic Servicing | 37 | 6 |

*Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in subjects related to construction and engineering*

| | *Advanced Apprenticeship* | *Apprenticeship* |
|---|---|---|
| *2005/06* | | |
| Electrotechnical | 186 | 133 |
| Engineering | 156 | 83 |
| Engineering Construction | 13 | 0 |
| Construction | 46 | 407 |
| Plumbing | 68 | 207 |
| Aviation | 0 | 5 |
| Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration | 96 | 106 |
| Automotive Industry | 51 | 23 |
| Gas Industry | 7 | 24 |
| Rail Transport Engineering | 68 | 0 |
| Electrical and Electronic Servicing | 22 | 0 |
| Vehicle Fitting | 0 | 36 |
| Vehicle Maintenance and Repair | 69 | 187 |
| Vehicle Body and Paint Operations | 2 | 19 |
| Vehicle Parts Operations | 0 | 12 |
| Engineering Technology | 2 | 0 |
| *2006/07* | | |
| Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Petro-Chemical Manufacturing and Refining Industries | 1 | 0 |
| Electrotechnical | 270 | 3 |
| Engineering | 116 | 116 |
| Engineering Construction | 16 | 0 |
| Construction | 63 | 390 |
| Plumbing | 108 | 188 |
| Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration | 44 | 123 |
| Automotive Industry | 15 | 14 |
| Gas Industry | 13 | 7 |
| Rail Transport Engineering | 27 | 2 |
| Industrial Applications | 0 | 3 |
| Electrical and Electronic Servicing | 3 | 0 |
| Vehicle Fitting | 0 | 24 |
| Vehicle Maintenance and Repair | 95 | 296 |
| Vehicle Body and Paint Operations | 12 | 25 |
| Vehicle Parts Operations | 9 | 10 |

[1] Figures for 2003/04 are for Advanced Modern Apprenticeships and Foundation Modern Apprenticeships.

*Source:*

LSC's ILR

## Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many undergraduates entered UK universities by socio-economic grouping in each year between 1996 and 2007. [173209]

**Bill Rammell:** The available information is shown in the table. The figures show proportions of UK-domiciled young (aged under 21) entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in the UK, who were from lower social classes over the period 1997-98 to 2001-02, and the proportions from lower socio-economic classes over the period 2002-03 to 2005-06. The social classification in the student data changed in the 2002-03 academic year, and the two classifications are not comparable.

This information is taken from the annual Performance Indicators in Higher Education, which are currently published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

*UK-domiciled young (under 21) full-time first degree entrants to higher education institutions in the UK*

| *Academic Year* | *Lower social classes (IIIM, IV, V)* | *Lower socio-economic groups (4, 5, 6, 7)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 24.9 | n/a |
| 1998-99 | 25.1 | n/a |
| 1999-2000 | 25.3 | n/a |
| 2000-01 | 25.4 | n/a |
| 2001-02 | 25.8 | n/a |
| 2002-03 | n/a | 28.4 |
| 2003-04 | n/a | 28.6 |
| 2004-05 | n/a | 28.2 |
| 2005-06 | n/a | 29.3 |

n/a = not available

*Note:*

The socio-economic group classification was introduced in 2002-03 to replace the social class groupings. The two classifications are not directly comparable

*Source:*

Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HEFCE/HESA

Figures are not available for earlier years. Figures for 2006-07 will become available in 2008.

The proportion of students from low social classes/low socio-economic classes has been calculated using information on students whose social class/socio-economic class background is known. A significant proportion of students' social backgrounds are unknown and so exact numbers cannot be determined.

## Postgraduate Medical Deaneries

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people are employed in each of the postgraduate medical deaneries; what the payroll costs are for each deanery in 2007-08; and what the size is of the budget each deanery administers in 2007-08. [166866]

**Ann Keen:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of staff employed in each postgraduate medical deanery is not held centrally. It is therefore not possible to provide payroll cost information in respect of these staff.

Medical and dental education levy (MADEL) funding is not allocated directly to the postgraduate medical deaneries. It is included in the multi professional education and training (MPET) budget allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs). It is up to each SHA to decide how much of the MPET allocation it will spend on postgraduate medical and dental education. The amount of MADEL funding included in each SHAs MPET allocation in 2007-08, is shown in the following table.

*Medical and dental education levy budget 2007-08*

| *Strategic health authority* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 114,992 |
| East of England | 141,546 |
| London | 351,911 |
| North East | 99,551 |
| North West | 201,582 |
| South Central | 116,055 |
| South East Coast | 107,141 |
| South West | 145,281 |
| West Midlands | 152,452 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 169,781 |
| Total | 1,600,292 |

## Reviews

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to undertake; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [169932]

**Mr. Lammy:** External reviews, consultations and taskforces being undertaken or scheduled to be undertaken by DIUS are as follows:

| *Name* | *Type* | *Start date* | *Completion date* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Review of variable fees for full-time undergraduates | Review | To be determined | To be determined | Independent review of the first three years of the new system of variable fees, which started in the academic year 2006/07 |
| Review of operation of new foundation degree awarding powers for further education colleges | Review | May 2013 | To be determined | To review the operation of the new foundation degree awarding powers for further education colleges. This review is required under the Education and Training Act 2007 |
| Higher Education Regulatory Review Group (HERRG) | Taskforce | 2004 | Ongoing | To serve as a "gatekeeper" advising on the potential burden of policies and proposals; and generally to advise the Government on better regulation of higher education |
| Compacts project (with HEFCE) | Review | November 2007 | March 2008 | To establish the range and nature of HE compact schemes |
| Schwartz Review Project (through SPA) | Review | November 2007 | July 2008 | To examine the extent to which the Schwartz recommendations have been implemented; changes that have occurred in response to the Schwartz recommendations; and how the implementation of the recommendations has supported the five principles of fair admissions |
| New civil space strategy | Review | Summer 2006, followed by a public consultation January to May 2007. | Publication of the new strategy is planned for early 2008 | The British National Space Centre is developing a new civil space strategy for the UK to replace the current "UK space strategy 2003 to 2006 and beyond: space for science, enterprise and environment". |
| Licensing re use of outer space | Review | 2005 | 2005 Consultation 2008 | The provisions of Outer Space Act provide the principal means of UK compliance with international treaties on the use of outer space. The Government held a review of their implementation in 2005 with a view to modernising the licensing process required by the Act. As a result of the review, we have improved guidance to licence applicants and pre-licensing assessments. We expect to conclude this process with a public consultation on further proposals to revise the licensing process in 2008. |
| Science Review of the Home Office and ministry of Justice | Review | January 2007 | December 2007 | The Government Office for Science runs a rolling programme of "Science Reviews" looking at how departments of state identify their science requirements, use science and scientific advice; and commission, manage and quality-assure science.[1] |
| Science Review of the Department of Health | Review | July 2008 | May 2008 | [1]— |
| Review of Weights & Measures legislation | Review | 2 November 2007 | 2008 | It is likely that a consultation on proposals for legislative changes will follow the review some time in 2009. |
| Possible changes to existing secondary legislation on measuring instruments. | Consultation | 16 November 2007 | 8 February 2008. | Proposals identified as a result of this review will be subject to further consultation as part of the legislative change process. |
| Improvement in the Further Education Sector | Consultation | 4 December 2007 | 25 January 2008 | A consultative prospectus for a new sector-owned organisation |
| Changes to the regime governing specified quantities. | Consultation | The consultation is anticipated during 2008, though no date has been set. | | Legislation is necessary to implement Directive 2007/45/EC on specified quantities for pre-packages and may also provide an opportunity make reforms to the regime for non pre-packaged products which would simplify the legislation and remove any unnecessary burdens on business. (We expect to consult on draft legislation by October 2008 so that new legislation can be in place by April 2009.) |

| *Name* | *Type* | *Start date* | *Completion date* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IPO Fastrack consultation | Consultation | — | 14 December 2007 | The Gowers Report on IP recommendation that the UK Intellectual Property Office provide a speedier process for granting patents and trade marks, subject to the payment of a higher fee. This consultation will close on 14 December 2007. |
| Research Exemption | Consultation | January 2008 | — | This process will commence with a discussion paper to identify key issues for inclusion in the consultation. It responds to a recommendation made by Gowers which calls for greater clarity about what can or cannot be done by researchers using patented processes and products. |
| Copyright | Consultation | Taking place in 2008. No dates yet set[2] | | Changes to copyright exceptions taking forward the recommendations of the Gowers Review. |
| Hours of Business | Consultation | [2]— | | This consultation concerns the dates/days of the week and times of the day during which the UK-IPO is able to accept date-sensitive transactions such as filing of applications. |
| Patent Office Fees | Consultation | [2]— | | This was a recommendation of Gowers, with the purpose of realigning UK Patent Office administrative fees to cover costs more closely on Patent Office operations (e.g. granting patents). |
| Copyright issues | Consultation | [2]— | | This may be needed to reframe some aspects of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act in relation to copyright exceptions. |
| Train to Gain | Review | July 2007 | November 2007 | To review the effectiveness and operation of Train to Gain to ensure we can expand the service to meet the needs of all employers in all sectors. |
| Review of Investors in People | — | 23 October 2007 | End of December 2007 | Review the remit of Investors in People to consider how IiP UK and its products, including the standard itself, should be reshaped to support delivery of the UK world class skills ambition |
| Consultation on changes to the machinery of post-16 skills delivery, consequential to the 2007 MoG changes | Consultation | Feb 2008 | May 2008 | Joint with DCSF. To consult on proposals to (i) effect the transfer of strategic leadership for 16-19 education and skills to local authorities and (ii) reform the post-19 skills landscape. |
| Consultation on informal adult education | Consultation | January 2008 | March 2008 | To consult sector partners, learners and potential learners on the planning and delivery of informal adult education for the 21st century |
| Consultation on focusing ESOL on community cohesion | Consultation | To be determined | To be determined | Explore how to prioritise the most excluded in the funding and delivery of ESOL training. |
| Mortgage Style Student Loans | Review | Spring 2005 | Summer 2006 | To establish new strategies for overseeing Mortgage Style Loans to optimise cost effectiveness on both the Government's retained and sold loan portfolios. |
| Apprenticeships | Review | Autumn 2007 | Early 2008 | To review the Government's apprenticeships programme and identify improvements to assist in the delivery of policy aims, including the achievement of published targets. |
| Regulation of qualifications | Consultation | December 2007 | Spring 2008 | To consult on the Government's plans to establish a new independent regulator for qualifications. Joint with DCSF. |

## Students: Loans

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the debt owed to the Student Loans Company by residents of each London borough. [169371]

**Bill Rammell:** The available data are shown in the table.

*Number of borrowers with publicly-owned student loans, March 2007 amount of loan balance[1] by loan type, by London borough[2]*

| *London borough* | *Borrowers* | *Amount of loan balance (£000)*<br>*Mortgage-style loans* | *Income-contingent loans* | *All loans* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 5,300 | | 40,405 | 42,356 |
| Barnet | 20,900 | 8,641 | 149,495 | 158,135 |
| Bexley | 8,700 | 2,781 | 64,990 | 67,771 |
| Brent | 19,100 | 9,241 | 140,108 | 149,349 |
| Bromley | 14,800 | 4,804 | 105,839 | 110,643 |
| Camden | 9,600 | 5,896 | 67,073 | 72,969 |

*Number of borrowers with publicly-owned student loans, March 2007 amount of loan balance[1] by loan type, by London borough[2]*

| | | *Amount of loan balance (£000)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London borough* | *Borrowers* | *Mortgage-style loans* | *Income-contingent loans* | *All loans* |
| Croydon, | 18,500 | 6,956 | 138,769 | 145,725 |
| Ealing | 18,800 | 7,131 | 140,039 | 147,170 |
| Enfield | 16,100 | 6,389 | 117,949 | 124,339 |
| Greenwich | 10,500 | 5,026 | 80,607 | 85,633 |
| Hackney | 12,000 | 8,298 | 83,663 | 91,961 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 7,100 | 4,235 | 49,338 | 53,573 |
| Haringey | 14,400 | 8,655 | 98,990 | 107,645 |
| Harrow | 16,500 | 5,236 | 127,849 | 133,085 |
| Havering | 7,700 | 2,159 | 56,214 | 58,373 |
| Hillingdon | 11,300 | 3,302 | 84,399 | 87,700 |
| Hounslow | 11,500 | 4,052 | 79,640 | 83,692 |
| Islington | 9,700 | 6,176 | 68,004 | 74,180 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5,500 | 3,559 | 37,397 | 40,956 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 8,600 | 3,185 | 61,907 | 65,092 |
| Lambeth | 14,900 | 9,456 | 109,837 | 119,293 |
| Lewisham | 14,000 | 7,642 | 101,971 | 109,613 |
| Merton | 9,500 | 4,432 | 69,904 | 74,336 |
| Newham | 15,700 | 7,871 | 116,974 | 124,845 |
| Redbridge | 16,000 | 5,559 | 115,802 | 121,361 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 10,000 | 3,888 | 69,272 | 73,160 |
| Southwark | 14,100 | 9,598 | 106,991 | 116,588 |
| Sutton | 8,400 | 2,627 | 61,991 | 64,618 |
| Tower Hamlets | 8,800 | 3,268 | 62,502 | 65,770 |
| Waltham Forest | 12,400 | 6,297 | 88,372 | 94,669 |
| Wandsworth | 12,500 | 6,889 | 85,222 | 92,111 |
| Westminster | 6,500 | 3,880 | 43,066 | 46,946 |
| Total | 389,500 | 179,078 | 2,824,579 | 3,003,657 |

[1] Includes loans not yet due for repayment.

[2] Provisional data.

*Source:*

Student Loans Company

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Free School Meals

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of children on free school meals in each academy; and what percentage were on free school meals in the predecessor schools in the two years before academy status was granted. [172090]

**Jim Knight:** The latest available information on pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in academies relates to January 2007 and is shown in the following table.

Information on the percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in the predecessor schools in the two years before academy status was granted can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Academies: number and percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals, as at January 2007*

| | | *Pupil Achievement and Attainment Tables[1]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *LA name* | *School name* | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* |
| Barnet | London Academy | 1,004 | 432 | 43 |
| Barnsley | The Barnsley Academy | 424 | 159 | 37.5 |
| Bexley | The Business Academy Bexley | 1,385 | 543 | 39.2 |
| Bradford | Dixons City Academy | 823 | 59 | 7.2 |
| Brent | Capital City Academy | 897 | 313 | 34.9 |
| City of Bristol | The City Academy Bristol | 959 | 381 | 39.7 |
| Derby | Landau Forte College | 784 | 88 | 11.2 |
| Doncaster | Trinity Academy | 1,074 | 176 | 16.4 |
| Ealing | West London Academy | 1,081 | 439 | 40.6 |
| Greenwich | St. Pauls Academy | 700 | 179 | 25.6 |
| Hackney | Mossbourne Community Academy | 613 | 249 | 40.6 |
| Hackney | The Petchey Academy | 180 | 86 | 47.8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | Burlington Danes Academy | 807 | 166 | 20.6 |
| Haringey | Greig City Academy | 672 | 251 | 37.4 |
| Hillingdon | Stockley Academy | 672 | 274 | 40.8 |
| Hillingdon | The Harefield Academy | 507 | 88 | 17.4 |
| Kent | The Marlowe Academy | 593 | 187 | 31.5 |
| Lambeth | Lambeth Academy | 532 | 229 | 43 |
| Leeds | David Young Community Academy | 881 | 371 | 42.1 |
| Lewisham | Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College | 1,035 | 181 | 17.5 |
| Lewisham | Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy | 728 | 321 | 44.1 |
| Liverpool | The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi | 661 | 312 | 47.2 |
| Liverpool | North Liverpool Academy | 989 | 406 | 41.1 |
| Manchester | Manchester Academy | 779 | 399 | 51.2 |
| Merton | Harris Academy Merton | 651 | 195 | 30 |
| Merton | St. Marks Church of England Academy | 717 | 194 | 27.1 |
| Middlesbrough | Unity City Academy | 1,035 | 466 | 45 |
| Middlesbrough | The King's Academy | 977 | 257 | 26.3 |

*Academies: number and percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals, as at January 2007*

| | | Pupil Achievement and Attainment Tables[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *LA name* | *School name* | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* |
| Middlesbrough | Macmillan Academy | 1,135 | 293 | 25.8 |
| Northamptonshire | Northampton Academy | 1,187 | 193 | 16.3 |
| Nottingham | Djanogly City Academy Nottingham | 1,364 | 446 | 32.7 |
| Reading | John Madejski Academy | 494 | 150 | 30.4 |
| Salford | Salford City Academy | 583 | 105 | 18 |
| Sandwell | Sandwell Academy | 180 | 26 | 14.4 |
| Sheffield | Sheffield Park Academy | 1,060 | 385 | 36.3 |
| Sheffield | Sheffield Springs Academy | 981 | 342 | 34.9 |
| Solihull | Grace Academy | 1,079 | 319 | 29.6 |
| Southwark | City of London Academy (Southwark) | 747 | 273 | 36.5 |
| Southwark | The Academy at Peckham | 1,043 | 530 | 50.8 |
| Southwark | Harris Academy Bermondsey | 878 | 532 | 60.6 |
| Southwark | Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich | 769 | 312 | 40.6 |
| Thurrock | The Gateway Academy | 817 | 296 | 36.2 |
| Walsall | Walsall Academy | 685 | 82 | 12 |
| Waltham Forest | Walthamstow Academy | 675 | 214 | 31.7 |
| Westminster | Paddington Academy | 783 | 428 | 54.7 |
| Westminster | Westminster Academy | 747 | 304 | 40.7 |

[1] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration who are full-time and aged 0 to 15 (inclusive) and those who are part-time and aged five to 15 (inclusive).
*Source:*
School Census.

## Academies: Sponsorship

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) who the *(a)* sponsors and *(b)* co-sponsors are of academies approved since June 2007; and if he will make a statement; [168194]

(2) if he will list for each academy approved since 1st June 2007 the *(a)* lead sponsor and *(b)* co-sponsors; and if he will make a statement. [169838]

**Jim Knight:** The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has approved Funding Agreements for 29 academies between 1 June 2007 and 28 November 2007. The names of the sponsors and co-sponsors for these academies are shown in the following table:

| *Academy* | *Sponsor* | *Co-sponsor* |
|---|---|---|
| Eastbourne Church of England Academy | Diocese of Durham and David and Anne Crossland | — |
| Bristol Brunel Academy | John Cabbot Academy Trust | — |
| Harris City Academy, Crystal Palace | CTC Trust/Harris Federation of South London Schools Trust | — |
| St. Michael and All Angels CofE | Southwark Diocesan Board of Education | TocH |
| St. Anne's Academy | The Manchester Diocese and David and Anne Crossland | — |
| Bacon's, A Church of England Sponsored Academy | CTC Trust, Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and the Phillip and Pauline Harris Charitable Trust | — |
| Shireland Collegiate Academy | Ormiston Trust and Shireland Learning | — |
| George Salter Collegiate Academy | Ormiston Trust and Shireland Learning | — |
| Cornwallis Academy | Cornwallis Online Learning | Kent CC |
| Marsh Academy | Microsoft and Tonbridge School | Kent CC |
| Swindon Academy | ULT | — |
| North Oxfordshire Academy | ULT | — |
| Havelock Academy | David Ross | — |
| New Line Learning Academy | Cornwallis Online Learning | Kent CC |
| John Cabot Academy | John Cabot CTC Trust | — |
| Walworth Academy | ARK | — |
| Evelyn Grace Academy | ARK | — |
| The Samworth Church Academy | David Samworth and Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham | — |
| New Charter Academy | New Charter Housing Trust | — |
| Q3 Academy | Grace Trust | — |
| The Globe Academy | ARK | — |
| Grace Academy | Bob Edmiston | — |
| Pennywell/Quarry View Academy | Gentoo Group | Sunderland CC |
| Nottingham Bulwell Academy | Edge Foundation | — |
| Red House Academy | Leighton Group | Sunderland CC |
| Nottingham University Samworth Academy | University of Nottingham and David Samworth | — |
| Milton Keynes | Edge Foundation | — |
| Castle View Academy | Northumbrian Water | Sunderland CC |
| Brooke Weston Academy | Brooke Weston CTC Trust | — |

## Children: Databases

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what safeguards he plans to put in place to prevent unauthorised access to data held on ContactPoint. [170433]

**Kevin Brennan:** Security is, and always has been, of paramount importance to the ContactPoint project and we are mindful that the Data Protection Act 1988 requires that the level of technical and organisational security must be appropriate.

In relation to practitioner access to ContactPoint, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 926-27W.

In relation to the storage and use of data, on Tuesday 20 November my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, asked the Department's Permanent Secretary to conduct an immediate assessment of how personal data are stored and protected in the Department. The Permanent Secretary reported back within 24 hours to confirm the Department is confident that we have very robust procedures in place. In light of the security breach at the HMRC, we are continuing to check our procedures to ensure standards are as high as they can be. On Wednesday 21 November, the Prime Minister confirmed this approach when he asked all Departments to check their procedures for the storage and use of data. Given the obvious importance of ensuring that ContactPoint has extremely robust security measures in place, on Tuesday 20 November, the Secretary of State also asked for an independent assessment of ContactPoint's security procedures. This will be conducted by Deloitte.

In line with best practice, ContactPoint will be routinely backed up. This will be done only by specifically identified system operators within Capgemini, with whom we have contracted for the build and initial host of ContactPoint. Two Capgemini staff will have to be present when back-ups take place. This dual control is considered best practice. The backup tapes will be encrypted, protected with a strong (complex) password and stored in a fire-proof safe in a secure room. The limited number of Capgemini staff who do have access to these data must have enhanced CRB clearance.

There is no facility that would allow users to copy personal identifiable information to a file, other than when files need to be backed up as indicated. The vast majority of users will only be able to view child data on the screen — they will not be able to extract files in a personally identifiable form. A very limited number of people will be able to extract identifiable data, one record at a time, from ContactPoint in order to meet legal requirements as set out in The Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007, including responding to Subject Access Requests. There is a clear right under the Data Protection Act 1998 for children and young people (or their parents or carers when acting appropriately on their behalf) to have access to their information on ContactPoint and for it to be corrected if it is found to be inaccurate.

A very limited number of people in local authorities and the national ContactPoint team will be able to run reports to, for example, produce aggregated data or support data quality checks. These reports will be in an anonymised form and will not contain personally identifiable data. The only exception to this is a report produced to support local authorities in their duty to identify children who are missing education. The information provided in this report is restricted by regulations and can only contain child name, address, date of birth, unique identifying number, parent/carer contact details and the details of start and end dates for educational institutions attended by the child or young person.

## Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170161]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families use the following postal companies to handle mail dispatched from its head office buildings: Royal Mail; Parcel Force; Copley Couriers; Central Dispatch Couriers.

## Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before their transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations. [168249]

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168753]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years. [168820]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* planning to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168849]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families has no land falling in these categories.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164879]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department published its autumn performance report on Friday 7 December 2007.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of extending the education maintenance allowance to cover all provision approved by local authorities; [169183]

(2) how many young persons are on courses approved by local authorities which are not eligible for funding under the education maintenance allowance. [169165]

**Jim Knight:** Since 5 November 2007 the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have been trialling a new definition of valid provision for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Local authority funded learning programmes that meet the criteria being trialled will become eligible for EMA during the trial period which will be up to 18 months.

The LSC estimate that around 2,000 extra learners could become eligible for EMA during the trial period at a cost of about £2 million a year. We do not know how many of those extra learners will be undertaking local authority approved courses. The LSC will be closely monitoring take up during the trial period and will undertake an evaluation of impact and cost to inform future policy decisions.

During the trials a young person will be able to apply for EMA provided:

> the programme of study is not less than twelve guided learning hours a week for a minimum of 10 weeks
>
> the provision is inspected by a public body that assures quality,

and is either:

> (i) funded or co-financed by the Learning and Skills Council in England;

or

> (ii) leads to a qualification that is accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority pursuant to section 24 of the Education Act 1997 (b);

or

> leads to a qualification that is approved by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 98 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 (c).

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Young Offenders

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the additional cost of allowing all children detained in young offenders' institutions the full rate of education maintenance allowance. [166584]

**Jim Knight:** Young people in custody are not eligible to receive education maintenance allowance. However, they can apply while they are in custody and their applications will be assessed in the same manner as those from children in local authority care, or foster care. This ensures that custodial staff can help young offenders apply as part of the resettlement process. EMA is only payable after the young person has been released from custody and begins a valid course with an approved provider.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of persistent truants gained *(a)* fewer than five A* to C grades, *(b)* fewer than five A* to G grades and *(c)* no GCSEs in the latest period for which figures are available; [169146]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils who were given a fixed period exclusion gained *(a)* fewer than five A* to C grades, *(b)* fewer than five A* to G grades and *(c)* no GCSEs in the latest period for which figures are available; [169147]

(3) how many and what proportion of pupils permanently excluded gained *(a)* fewer than five A* to G grades, *(b)* fewer than five A* to C grades and *(c)* no GCSEs in the latest period for which figures are available. [169148]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Geronimo Communications

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what work was undertaken by Geronimo Communications in financial years *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 to date for his Department; and if he will make a statement. [168807]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]*: Geronimo has provided media relations support within departmental information campaigns (often concentrating on local and regional media and specialist media outlets). While in some campaigns their contribution has worked alongside advertising, in many others it is the main plank of the campaign strategy.

The campaigns in which Geronimo has worked are as follows:

*2006-07*

Aim Higher
Attendance
London Challenge
City Academies

*2007-08*

Aim Higher
Children's Plan Consultation
Early Years Careers
Child Care and Early Learning
Extended Schools
London Challenge and City Challenge
Attendance
City Academies
Student Finance Fulfilment
Diplomas

The campaigns for 2007-08 include ones for the newly created Department for Universities, Innovation and Skills, where these relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

## Head Teachers: Qualifications

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many candidates successfully completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship in each academic year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [169793]

**Jim Knight:** The number of candidates who successfully completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship in each academic year since 2003/04 is as follows. The academic year 2007/08 is ongoing so the figure given is not complete.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003/04 | 3,524 |
| 2004/05 | 4,101 |
| 2005/06 | 4,400 |
| 2006/07 | 4,354 |
| 2007/08 | 109 |

## Pupil Exclusions

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many primary school pupils received a *(a)* fixed period exclusion and *(b)* permanent exclusion in the last 12 months, broken down by (i) reason for exclusion and (ii) local authority; [169149]

(2) how many *(a)* permanent exclusions and *(b)* fixed term exclusions there were in primary schools in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) age of the child and (ii) reason for exclusion. [169185]

**Jim Knight:** Local authority level tables showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason for 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 have been placed in the Library. The latest year for which data are available for primary schools is 2004/05. The tables include national and regional totals.

The readily available information on exclusions by age relates to pupils excluded from primary, secondary and special schools and is provided in the table:

*Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2]: Number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by age England, 2003/04 (estimates)[3] and 2004/05 (estimates)[3]*

| | *2003/04 (estimates)* | | *2004/05 (estimates)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Permanent exclusions* | *Fixed period exclusions* | *Permanent exclusions* | *Fixed period exclusions* |
| *Number of exclusions* | | | | |
| *Age[4]:* | | | | |
| 4 and under | 20 | 1,180 | 60 | 960 |
| 5 | 50 | 2,030 | 40 | 2,150 |
| 6 | 90 | 2,950 | 60 | 3,080 |
| 7 | 160 | 4,650 | 110 | 5,270 |
| 8 | 230 | 7,220 | 190 | 7,490 |
| 9 | 370 | 10,700 | 300 | 11,430 |
| 10 | 410 | 15,070 | 420 | 15,980 |
| 11 | 680 | 36,420 | 650 | 40,960 |
| 12 | 1,540 | 60,240 | 1,590 | 68,020 |
| 13 | 2,470 | 76,720 | 2,410 | 88,610 |
| 14 | 2,750 | 78,330 | 2,580 | 91,250 |
| 15 | 1,070 | 47,640 | 980 | 52,740 |
| 16 | 30 | 920 | 40 | 990 |
| 17 | 20 | 360 | 10 | 370 |
| 18 | * | 60 | * | 40 |
| 19 and over | * | 30 | 0 | 40 |
| Total[5] | 9,830 | 344,510 | 9,440 | 389,560 |
| *Percentage of school population[6]* | | | | |
| *Age[4]:* | | | | |
| 4 and under | 0.00 | 0.14 | 0.01 | 0.12 |
| 5 | 0.01 | 0.36 | 0.01 | 0.38 |
| 6 | 0.02 | 0.50 | 0.01 | 0.54 |
| 7 | 0.03 | 0.81 | 0.02 | 0.90 |
| 8 | 0.04 | 1.24 | 0.03 | 1.31 |
| 9 | 0.06 | 1.80 | 0.05 | 1.97 |
| 10 | 0.07 | 2.53 | 0.07 | 2.69 |
| 11 | 0.11 | 6.03 | 0.11 | 7.04 |
| 12 | 0.25 | 9.89 | 0.26 | 11.26 |
| 13 | 0.41 | 12.74 | 0.40 | 14.59 |
| 14 | 0.46 | 13.26 | 0.43 | 15.22 |
| 15 | 0.18 | 8.11 | 0.17 | 9.09 |
| 16 | 0.01 | 0.49 | 0.02 | 0.51 |
| 17 | 0.01 | 0.25 | 0.01 | 0.25 |
| 18 | * | 0.40 | * | 0.31 |
| 19 and over | * | 3.49 | 0.00 | 3.21 |
| Total[5] | 0.13 | 4.49 | 0.12 | 5.12 |

* = Less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] For permanent exclusions includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools. For fixed period exclusions excludes non-maintained special schools.

[3] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.

[4] Age as at 31 August 2003 and as at 31 August 2004.

[5] There were 17 permanent exclusions for which gender is unclassified as well as 140 fixed period exclusions of boys and 41 fixed period exclusions of girls for whom age was not known—these were included in the 'total' column only.

[6] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils of each age in primary, secondary and special schools (excluding dually registered pupils in special schools) in January each year.

*Note:*

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

Schools Census and Termly Exclusions Survey

### Pupils: Assessments

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of schools in *(a)* England and *(b)* the Isle of Wight Council area permit pupils to take Key Stage 3 tests in (i) year eight and (ii) years eight and nine. [165033]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Information is not available in the format requested. Head teachers of maintained schools are required to enter pupils for Key Stage 3 tests in the school year in which they complete the relevant National Curriculum programmes of study. Each pupil may take each test only once. Most such pupils are in year nine but others take the Key Stage 3 tests in an earlier or later year, for example in year eight where their school delivers a two-year Key Stage 3 programme for some or all of its pupils.

### Rosemellin Community Interest Company

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what correspondence his Department has had with the Rosemellin Community Interest Company on their proposals to meet community needs with a one stop shop facility; if he will place in the Library copies of that correspondence; and if he will make a statement. [169317]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* This Department received a letter, and a booklet, from the Rosemellin Community Interest Co. on 6 November, 2007. Officials will be responding in due course. A copy will, of course, be sent to the House of Commons Library as requested.

### School Leaving

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the cost of implementing the proposed raising of the school participation age to 18 years. [169161]

**Jim Knight:** The estimated costs of raising the participation age were set out in the initial regulatory impact assessment published alongside the Green Paper on 22 March 2007. Annual costs were estimated at around £700 million per cohort of young people, but recurring annual benefits were around £1,400 million. This can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/RIA%20[FINAL]%20word%20version.pdf

and I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

These projections have been updated, and revised figures will feature in the regulatory impact assessment that was published alongside the Bill. This was placed in the Library of the House on 29 November.

### Schools: Crime

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in each London borough were charged with a criminal offence for incidents that took place *(a)* in educational institutions and *(b)* on school property in each of the last five years. [169232]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Schools: Transport

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consideration he has given to the funding of free transport to enable students over the age of 16 to reach schools and colleges if the school leaving age is raised to 18. [170526]

**Jim Knight:** We will be looking very carefully at the structure of financial support to ensure that it continues to be as effective as possible in the context of the raised participation age, including support for transport and other learning-related costs.

### Specialised Diplomas

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has paid to consultants looking into the implementation of the new diplomas. [169167]

**Kevin Brennan:** Between April 2006 and November 2007, the Department has paid £2.52 million to consultants for advice and support on the implementation of diplomas.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Support Agency: Manpower

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many whole-time equivalent staff were employed by the Child Support Agency *(a)* in each region and *(b)* in Newcastle and North Tyneside (i) in 2005-06, (ii) in 2006-07 and (iii) on the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many are expected to transfer to the Agency's successor organisation in 2008. [168860]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty dated 11 December 2007:*

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions, how many whole-time equivalent staff were employed by the Child Support Agency *(a)* in each region and *(b)* in Newcastle and north Tyneside (i) in 2005-06 in 2006-07 and (iii) on the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many are expected to transfer to the Agency's successor organisation in 2008. [168860]

The total number of people employed by Government office Region is provide in the attached Table 1, and the number employed in Newcastle and North Tyneside is attached in Table

2. Figures are based on the Office of national Statistics (ONS) standard, for use in the calculation of all public sector employment statistics.

All people who carry out functions of the Child Support Agency in Great Britain will move to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, at the same time as the functions of the Agency are transferred.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Table 1: Child Support Agency people in post (whole time equivalent) by Government Office Region 2005-06 and 2006-07*

| *Counting methodology* | *Office of national Statistics (ONS)* | | *ONS* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Government Office Region* | *March 2006* | *March 2007* | *October 2007* |
| East Midlands | 187 | 139 | 115 |
| Eastern | 439 | 336 | 355 |
| London | 68 | 115 | 93 |
| North East | 1,303 | 1,652 | 1,590 |
| North West | 2,318 | 2,422 | 2,177 |
| Scotland | 1,718 | 1,746 | 1,591 |
| South East | 1,187 | 1,267 | 1,113 |
| South West | 1,750 | 1,601 | 1,442 |
| Wales | 125 | 126 | 118 |
| West Midlands | 1,544 | 1,458 | 1,323 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 395 | 362 | 331 |
| Grand total | 11,034 | 11,225 | 10,248 |

Notes:

1. The Office of National Statistics standard has been used from November 2005.

2. The North West Government office Region includes Merseyside.

*Table 1: Child Support Agency people in post for Newcastle and North Tyneside (whole time equivalent) 2005-06 and 2006-07*

| *Counting methodology* | *Office of national Statistics (ONS)* | | *ONS* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *March 2006* | *March 2007* | *October 2007* |
| *North East* | | | |
| Newcastle and North Tyneside | 965.65 | 1,154.24 | 1,135.68 |

Notes:

1. The Office of National Statistics standard has been used from November 2005.

## Conditions of Employment: Mental Health

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-30WS, on mental health and employment, how many advice and support services for employers he will pilot; where each will be based; when he expects each to start; and if he will make a statement. [169959]

**Mrs. McGuire:** On 27 November we announced our intention to pilot a new advice and support service for employers, in particular smaller businesses, to help them in managing and supporting people with mental health conditions to remain in or return to work.

We will be developing detailed proposals for the scope and delivery mechanisms of these pilots over the coming months, working closely with employers and their representative organisations to ensure that the pilot service best meets the needs of business.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-30WS, on Mental health and employment, how many Pathways Advisory Service pilots there are; where each is based; and where subsequent pilots will be located. [169960]

**Caroline Flint:** The current Pathways Advisory Service is a small scale pilot to test the impact of delivering an outreach service in health settings. The pilot is currently based in six Jobcentre Plus districts: Highlands and Islands; Clyde Coast and Grampian; Gateshead and South Tyneside; Bridgend, Rhondda, Cynon Taff; East Lancashire; and Somerset.

We are planning to expand the scope of the pilots to ensure that we gain robust evidence and learn as much as possible about the impact that joint working in this way can achieve. We are still considering the exact plans for implementation of this expansion, which will have a particular focus on supporting people with mental health problems.

## Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months. [171251]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Between November 2006 and October 2007, the Department for Work and Pensions spent £554,605 on business class air travel and £7,653 on first class flights.

## Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the £960 million in efficiency savings that his Department is projected to make under the spending review 2004 efficiency review is cashable. [169506]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions' efficiency target for spending review 2004 is that at least half of the £960 million efficiency savings must be cash releasing. By September 2007, annual cash releasing savings of £952 million had been achieved.

## Departmental Postal Services

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many items of post sent by his Department and its predecessor were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171292]

**Mrs. McGuire:** DWP dispatches some 200 million items of mail per year to its customers via documented and undocumented postal services from its individual businesses, offices and processing centres. The information requested is not held centrally and to provide it would be at a disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Responsibilities

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to implement; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [171788]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which his Department is responsible. [166523]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The following lists provide examples of the range of measures collected by the Departments Contact Centres.

In addition Business units collect a vast amount of individual pieces of information at various levels (individual, team, command, business unit, etc.) and by frequency. To obtain and list each individual piece of information would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department monitors the effectiveness of its contact centres through a scorecard that measures performance across a balanced range of measures. Performance is reported on a monthly basis to the Department's Contact Centre Advisory Team and, each quarter, to the DWP Planning, Performance and Risk Committee. Performance is also monitored by the Contact Centre Performance Working Group whose remit is to: understand and improve performance; identify common performance pressure points, share good practice; and support common performance improvement initiatives.

In addition, each Business Unit employs a range of performance management measures and tools to monitor the effectiveness of its centres which, for example, include: real time and historic performance measurement; mystery shopping; and the reviewing of the performance of individual agents.

The Department also now reports on the performance of its contact centres to the Contact Council established following Sir David Varney's recommendations in his report "Service transformation: A better service for citizens and businesses, a better deal for the taxpayer".

Examples of measures currently reported into the DWP Contact Centre Scorecard and Cabinet Office are:

Percentage Demand Forecast Accuracy
Percentage Calls Answered by Agents
Percentage Service Level
Percentage Agent Utilisation
Average Speed of Answer
Percentage Calls Blocked and Failed
Absence Levels
Staff Attrition
Cost per Contact Minute
Budget Tolerance
Percentage Staff Satisfaction and Engagement
Percentage Scheduled Adherence
Seat Utilisation

In addition to the aforementioned measures individual business units employ a range of performance management measures and tools to monitor the effectiveness of its centres. Examples listed as follows:

Telephone based customer surveys
Call quality assessment
Side by side and remote call listening
Monthly report on complaints and praise received
Mystery Shopping
Exit interviews
Claims Received (The Pension Service)
Claims Processed (The Pension Service)
Percentage Accuracy (The Pension Service)
Changes Received (The Pension Service)
Changes Processed (The Pension Service)
Real Time Monitoring
Average Wait Time
Average Call Handling Time

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much each telephone contact centre for which his Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment. [166524]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* The information requested on how much each contact centre costs is shown in the following table.

*(b)* DWP Contact Centres do not generate income. However, the Department's use of 0845 numbers does attract a small rebate from BT and has been running at approximately £0.5 million per annum which is offset against DWP telephony costs. Obtaining the rebate information by individual site and for the period requested would incur disproportionate costs.

| | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Disability and Carers*[1] | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [3]— | [3]— | — | [4]— |
| Benefit Enquiry Line | 9,540,865 | 8,315,719 | 9,067,186 | 9,572,303 | 10,774,196 | 11,067,939 | 1,762,062 | 960,622 |
| DLA/AA Helpline | — | — | — | — | — | — | 8,491,037 | 5,227,665 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| *Child Support Agency*[5] | | | | | | | | |
| Dudley | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hastings | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Falkirk | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plymouth | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Birkenhead and Liverpool | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Belfast | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| *Debt Management*[6] | | | | | | | | |
| Trafford | — | — | — | — | — | 9,735,454 | 9,524,266 | 5,327,328 |
| *The Pension Service* | | | | | | | | |
| Burnley | — | — | — | — | — | 9,858,281 | 12,097,029 | 6,956,091 |
| Cwmbran | — | — | — | — | — | 6,645,231 | 7,033,671 | 4,125,927 |
| Dundee | — | — | — | — | — | 9,904,371 | 10,443,427 | 6,032,465 |
| Future | — | — | — | — | — | 20,366,623 | 11,374,531 | 5,501,042 |
| International Pension Centre inc Medical Benefits | — | — | — | — | — | 22,454,656 | 23,914,637 | 13,255,214 |
| Leicester | — | — | — | — | — | 6,669,838 | 7,165,675 | 4,163,650 |
| London Pension Centre Newcastle | — | — | — | — | — | 12,556,054 | 13,333,458 | 7,684,133 |
| Motherwell | — | — | — | — | — | 10,847,124 | 11,763,602 | 6,942,838 |
| Seaham | — | — | — | — | — | 8,786,685 | 9,192,056 | 5,050,531 |
| Stockport | — | — | — | — | — | 13,982,912 | 13,652,163 | 7,974,384 |
| Swansea | — | — | — | — | — | 13,044,277 | 13,596,933 | 7,302,400 |
| Warrington | — | — | — | — | — | 11,558,235 | 12,086,898 | 7,342,416 |
| Bath | — | — | — | — | — | 9,215,545 | 8,650,349 | 3,554,916 |
| Birmingham | — | — | — | — | — | 8,619,602 | 8,493,998 | 4,509,315 |
| Blackpool | — | — | — | — | — | 5,038,982 | 4,714,033 | 1,846,564 |
| Dearne Valley | — | — | — | — | — | 8,505,959 | 8,256,244 | 3,487,550 |
| Goole | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3,319,502 | 195,453 |
| National Pension Centre | — | — | — | — | — | 20,541,460 | 19,238,740 | 9,587,270 |
| Pension Credit Application Line | — | — | — | — | — | 9,987,616 | 6,120,149 | 2,270,358 |
| Walsall | — | — | — | — | — | 6,048,403 | 6,412,068 | 3,377,940 |
| Winter Fuel Cardiff | — | — | — | — | — | 1,828,193 | 1,695,249 | 854,437 |
| *Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre* | | | | | | | | |
| Annesley | — | — | — | — | — | 2,283,465 | 2,731,037 | 3,001,816 |
| Bangor | — | — | — | — | — | 197,535 | 5,266,459 | 6,514,233 |
| Blackburn | — | — | — | — | 1,569,481 | 2,368,823 | 3,124,082 | 3,507,072 |
| Bootle | — | — | — | — | 1,581,470 | 2,770,950 | 3,880,126 | 3,862,846 |
| Bridgend | — | — | — | — | 2,006,999 | 4,774,976 | 6,827,700 | 7,123,014 |
| Caerphilly | — | — | — | — | — | 1,961,426 | 2,268,693 | 2,488,299 |
| Clydebank | — | — | — | — | — | 2,475,688 | 2,723,815 | 2,672,535 |
| Coventry | — | — | — | — | 989,258 | 2,466,140 | 5,171,199 | 5,551,312 |
| Derby | — | — | — | — | 1,290,265 | 7,526,058 | 9,590,432 | 9,650,393 |
| Dundee | — | — | — | — | 3,456,890 | 4,807,075 | 5,772,021 | 5,898,686 |
| Exeter | — | — | — | — | — | 2,647,393 | 3,211,627 | 3,442,509 |
| Garston | — | — | — | — | 2,469,659 | 3,657,666 | 5,589,917 | 5,234,946 |
| Grimsby Europarc | — | — | — | — | — | 2,133,730 | 2,590,361 | 2,572,710 |
| Grimsby Crown House | — | — | — | — | 1,577,273 | 2,951,117 | 4,435,835 | 4,844,598 |
| Halifax | — | — | — | — | 2,849,431 | 3,801,454 | 5,436,191 | 5,413,141 |
| Lincoln | — | — | — | — | 1,539,762 | 2,830,023 | 4,599,317 | 4,490,367 |
| Liverpool | — | — | — | — | — | 2,296,567 | 2,926,902 | 3,110,896 |
| Lowestoft | — | — | — | — | 2,250,525 | 3,840,502 | 4,730,461 | 5,012,521 |
| Marton Mere (Blackpool) | — | — | — | — | 2,378,730 | 3,281,176 | 4,264,681 | 4,419,620 |
| Middlesbrough | — | — | — | — | 2,076,667 | 3,728,288 | 5,696,637 | 5,913,909 |
| Preston | — | — | — | — | — | 1,212,910 | 808,387 | 1,252,455 |
| Newcastle | — | — | — | — | 1,261,543 | 3,978,730 | 4,716,194 | 4,805,919 |
| Paisley | — | — | — | — | 2,090,777 | 3,523,629 | 3,999,755 | 4,177,437 |
| Pembroke Dock | — | — | — | — | 4,219,902 | 4,625,854 | 4,801,012 | 4,946,808 |
| Poole | — | — | — | — | 1,791,463 | 2,713,430 | 3,542,123 | 3,587,092 |
| Sheffield | — | — | — | — | 783,312 | 1,699,867 | 2,810,084 | 2,961,854 |
| Southend | — | — | — | — | — | 2,590,006 | 3,256,547 | 3,310,187 |
| Taunton | — | — | — | — | 688,667 | 1,972,862 | 3,327,757 | 3,515,514 |

| | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Telford New Town House | — | — | — | — | 720,237 | 1,761,820 | 3,912,983 | 3,911,397 |
| Telford Plaza | — | — | — | — | — | 2,540,396 | 3,043,170 | 2,862,097 |
| Torquay | — | — | — | — | 1,815,285 | 3,257,115 | 4,505,976 | 4,576,123 |

[1] Costs include staff and non-staff costs (excluding estates and IS/IT).
[2] Costs for DCS Customer Services Group (includes non contact centre costs).
[3] Costs combined for Benefit Enquiry Line and DLA/AA Helpline.
[4] Costs up to October 2007 ytd.
[5] Costs not available by individual site. The total administrative expenditure of the agency is disclosed each year in the annual report and accounts.
[6] Costs include staff and non-staff costs including IS/IT, estates, contracts and recharges. 2006-07 post and stationery costs managed from central budget.
[7] Costs include staff and non staff costs (excluding estates and other centrally held budgets).
[8] Costs include staff, non-staff costs, estates and IS/ IT.
[9] Full years forecast costs for 2007-08.

## Housing: Low Incomes

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on *(a)* advice on and *(b)* overall implementation of local housing allowance in the nine pathfinder areas. [169088]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department has paid out around £9.7 million for the overall implementation of the local housing allowance in the nine pathfinder authority areas. This money was for a range of implementation activity. The payments were made at regular intervals to the pathfinder authorities and included funds for money management advice, IT costs, training, communications and advertising.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of expenditure by each activity.

## Jobcentre Plus: Applications

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken for Jobcentre Plus to process applications for crisis loans and community care grants was in each of the last five years, broken down by outcome of application. [173402]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to her on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 883-84W, for information on average clearance times. We are not able to break down the average clearance times by outcome.

## Jobcentre Plus: Telephones

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of calls received from a mobile telephone by *(a)* the Social Fund and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of the total number of calls received this represented in each case. [173401]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mel Groves, dated 11 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked Lesley Strathie to reply to your question asking what estimate he has made of the number of calls received from a mobile phone by *(a)* Social Fund *(b)* Jobcentre Plus in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of the total number of calls received this represented in each case. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

Jobcentre Plus is unable to establish the origin of each call received through any of our telephones. Our telephony systems do not record if a customer's call is made from a land line or mobile phone.

I hope this is helpful.

## Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the suitability of the procedures for jobseeker's allowance for lone parents; and if he will make a statement. [170680]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** There are already a number of lone parents who are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) rather than Income Support who are able to meet the conditions for receipt of JSA and make use of the help available to get back to work.

JSA conditions already have flexibilities with the necessary scope to allow carers, including lone parents, to tailor their availability for work to suit their personal circumstances. These include: changing their pattern of availability during school holidays; limiting availability to a minimum of 16 hours and; being treated as available and actively seeking work if there is a domestic emergency. Each case is judged on its own merit and all the available evidence is considered in reaching a decision. However, these flexibilities are subject to them having a reasonable prospect of finding work and being available for work for at least 16 hours a week.

The impact of these measures and how they can best be tailored to lone parents, were considered in our Green Paper 'In work, better off: next steps to full employment' and in the subsequent consultation on its proposals. We will be responding to these in our Green Paper response.

## Local Authorities: Equal Opportunities

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department issued to local authorities on the provision of access to disability information services for disabled people. [162800]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Within my Department the Office for Disability Issues has been working with central and local government and disability organisations to look at how disabled people get information about public services, what they think of it, and how access to that information can be improved.

Two reports were published earlier this year as a result of the project's work, aimed at communicators and practitioners. One, 'Improving Information for Disabled People' summarised the progress that had been made and the other, 'Five principles for producing better information for disabled people' set out the five core information principles that have been identified 'as essential to make sure that services and information are designed and delivered to a high standard.'

The project is continuing to work in partnership with four local authority-led projects in England, Cheshire, North Tyneside, Surrey and Croydon, aimed at improving provision of services locally.

### Departmental Relocation

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what relocations are planned by his Department over the next two years; what the current locations of those posts are; and where they are being relocated to. [168961]

**Mrs. McGuire:** In line with its commitment to the Lyons Review of Public Sector Relocation, as at 31 October 2007 (latest data available) the Department for Work and Pensions had relocated a total of 3,992 full-time equivalent posts from London and the south-east to other parts of the United Kingdom. A further 28 full-time equivalent relocations are planned over the next two years. Details of the planned relocations are set out in the following table.

| *Current Location* | *New Location* | *Number of Posts* |
|---|---|---|
| London North East | Bridgend | 17 |
| Hastings | Halifax | 7 |
| Aldershot, Newport and Portsmouth | Derby | 12 |
| London South | Taunton | 7 |
| Kent | Derby | 2 |

### New Deal for Long Term Unemployed: Employment

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the entrants to the New Deal 25 plus found sustained employment during *(a)* the four month Gateway Period and *(b)* the period of activity on mandatory options in each year since the inception of the programme; and what percentage of those engaged in each option found sustained employment. [162677]

**Caroline Flint:** New Deal 25 plus is mandatory for people aged 25 and over who have claimed jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for 18 out of the last 21 months. Participants enter a Gateway of intensive job search and specialist help to improve job prospects which lasts for a maximum of 16 weeks.

Those still claiming JSA at the end of the Gateway take part in the Intensive Activity Period (IAP). This lasts for a minimum of 13 weeks and is designed to give people the skills and experience they need to move into work. IAP provision includes basic employability training, self-employment support, education and training opportunities, and flexible packages of support, which can combine work experience or placements, work-focused training and help with motivation and soft skills. Those still unemployed at the end of the IAP period are referred to the Follow-Through phase of the programme.

The available information requested has been placed in the Library.

### New Deal for Young People: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals who participated in new deal for young people in the Peterborough constituency were not in either full-time or part-time work 12 months after completing the scheme in each year since 1998; and if he will make a statement. [170604]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: Information is not available on how many individuals who participated in new deal for young people in the Peterborough constituency were not in either full-time or part-time work 12 months after completing the scheme in each year since 1998.

The available information on the immediate destination of leavers from new deal for young people in the Peterborough constituency is in the following tables.

*New deal for young people—immediate destination on leaving. Peterborough parliamentary constituency*

*Number*

| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sustained employment | 70 | 200 | 170 | 140 | 170 | 180 | 120 | 120 | 140 | 1,390 |
| Employment and benefits | 0 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 100 |
| Jobseeker's allowance | 10 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 270 |
| Income support | 0 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 90 |
| Incapacity benefit | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 70 |
| Income support and incapacity benefit | 10 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 210 |
| Benefits—other/unknown benefits | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 90 |
| Other known | 10 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 160 |
| Off benefits/unknown | 40 | 90 | 100 | 90 | 120 | 130 | 110 | 110 | 140 | 1,010 |
| Total | 150 | 430 | 390 | 360 | 390 | 420 | 330 | 340 | 380 | 3,400 |

*Notes*:
1. Latest complete year data are 2006.
2. Immediate destination is measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions longitudinal study (WPLS).
3. People recorded as leaving to Employment and Benefits have evidence of both employment and an active benefit.
4. Figures are in thousands and rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source*:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

*New deal for young people—immediate destination on leaving. Peterborough parliamentary constituency*

| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *Percentage Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sustained employment | 47 | 47 | 44 | 39 | 44 | 43 | 36 | 35 | 37 | 41 |
| Employment and benefits | 0 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Jobseeker's allowance | 7 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| Income support | 0 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Incapacity benefit | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Income support and incapacity benefit | 7 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| Benefits—other/unknown benefits | 7 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Other known | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| Off benefits/unknown | 27 | 21 | 26 | 25 | 31 | 31 | 33 | 32 | 37 | 30 |

*Notes*:
1. Latest complete year data are 2006.
2. Immediate destination is measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions longitudinal study (WPLS).
3. People recorded as leaving to Employment and Benefits have evidence of both employment and an active benefit.
*Source*:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

*New deal for young people—leavers to sustained unsubsidised employment, Peterborough parliamentary constituency*

*Percentage*

| | *As a proportion of all leavers* | *As a proportion of leavers with a known destination* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 47 | 64 |
| 1999 | 47 | 59 |
| 2000 | 44 | 59 |
| 2001 | 39 | 52 |
| 2002 | 44 | 63 |
| 2003 | 43 | 62 |
| 2004 | 36 | 55 |
| 2005 | 35 | 52 |
| 2006 | 37 | 58 |

*Note*:
Latest complete year data are to 2006.
*Source*:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

### New Deal Schemes

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those leaving *(a)* the New Deal for Young People, *(b)* New Deal 25 plus and *(c)* the New Deal for Lone Parents have entered unsubsidised, sustained employment in each year since the inception of these schemes. [162356]

**Caroline Flint:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

### Pensions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) for what reasons the Government's response to the Deregulatory Review of Private Pensions recommended the introduction of a statutory override to allow schemes to implement the Pensions Act 2004 changes which reduced the limited price indexation cap from five per cent. to 2.5 per cent.; and if he will place in the Library the advice he received on this matter; [163647]

(2) for what reasons the Government's response to the Deregulatory Review of Private Pensions recommended the reduction of the cap for revaluation of deferred rights from five per cent. to 2.5 per cent.; and if he will place in the Library the advice he received on this matter. [163648]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Introducing a statutory override of scheme rules in relation to the change in the cap on indexation for future rights, and a reduction in the cap on revaluation from 5 per cent. to 2.5 per cent. for future rights, together with the other measures outlined in the Government response, aims to help employers to keep defined benefit schemes open, to the benefit of scheme members. The Government response seeks views on those proposals accordingly.

The Government carefully considered the areas where deregulation would be of most benefit to good quality defined benefit schemes, while bearing in mind the need to balance any changes to legislation with protection for members. It accepted the reviewers' important recommendation that no changes should be made to rights which have already been built up.

The issues on the proposed statutory override and change to the revaluation cap are fully set out in the reviewers' report and the Government response. Copies of the report and response have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Social Security Benefits: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what medical assessments are made of people who apply for benefits following a diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome or myalgic encephalomyelitis; and if he will make a statement. [167739]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Entitlement to disability or sickness related benefits is decided in the same way for people with chronic fatigue syndrome or myalgic encephalomyelitis as for other conditions. Assessments are based on the effects of the condition on each person's physical and mental function or their care or mobility needs.

For claimants of incapacity benefits, the Personal Capability Assessment is applied from the outset of the claim to people who have not recently been working in a regular occupation and to all other claims after 28 weeks of incapacity. For claimants of disability living allowance or attendance allowance, a medical examination would only take place if the decision maker feels that it is necessary.

### Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the use of overseas mail clearing services for his Department's post to overseas benefits recipients on the time taken for letters to be delivered to those recipients. [171797]

**Mrs. McGuire:** DWP's international mail is collected daily from DWP benefit processing output centres and is sorted into EU, Non-EU and Rest Of World destinations for despatch via air.

The mail is then handed to the National Postal Authority (in which the recipient lives) for final delivery via an undocumented service. All mail travels as 'Priority' which is equivalent to a first class service.

Average Transit times are:

Rest of World countries: seven to 10 days.

European Countries: five to seven days.

The factors which have adversely affected a country's transit time include: Weather (flood, snowfall etc.), political and civil unrest, flight delay affected by weather etc.

Regular contact between DWP and Spring Global Mail (our international mail providers) establishes any service failures and investigate as appropriate to indicate whether there are problems affecting delivery to certain countries.

### Single Equality Bill

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Minister for Equality, the hon. Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) on proposals for a Single Equality Bill. [170005]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Antisocial Behaviour Disorders

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what programmes designed to combat anti-social behaviour are administered by her Department; and what the budget for each was for the last five years for which figures are available. [164797]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since 2003-04, the Home Office has made £34.4 million available in each year specifically and solely to tackle antisocial behaviour. This includes funding for the Respect programme, which is now the responsibility of the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and a grant for antisocial behaviour co-ordinators.

In 2005-06, in England the antisocial co-ordinators grant was pooled within the safer and stronger communities fund. This pooled budget supports the delivery of outcomes contained in local area agreements (LAAs). All LAAs include for this year (2007-08) mandatory outcomes and indicators relating to antisocial behaviour.

There are many funding streams that impact on antisocial behaviour. A more detailed account can be found in the report by the National Audit Office "Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour" (HC99 2006-07, December 2006). Other Home Office led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example the introduction of community support officers, but a monetary value cannot be assigned to that contribution. Similarly, other Government Departments fund services that directly bear upon antisocial behaviour. For example the Crown Prosecution Service provides a network of specialist antisocial behaviour prosecutors, and Her Majesty's Court Service provides specialist antisocial behaviour response courts. There are many other programmes and services that contribute, sometimes indirectly, to tackling antisocial behaviour, including diversionary activities for young people, action against enviro-crime such as fly-tipping, neighbourhood wardens, as well as neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management. A more detailed account can be found in the report of, and evidence to, the Home Affairs Select Committee's report on anti-social behaviour (Fifth Report, Session 2004-05, HC80).

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued in Lincolnshire in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [162963]

(2) how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued in England and Wales in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [162965]

**Mr. Coaker:** The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts in England and Wales from January to December 2005 (latest available) is 4,060.

The number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts in the Lincolnshire criminal justice system area from January to December 2005 (latest available) is 20.

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders were made in the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in each year since their introduction. [172757]

**Mr. Coaker:** The number of antisocial behaviour orders issued in each year where the prohibitions specify an area within the city of Newcastle upon Tyne is shown in the table.

*Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by period and where restrictions are imposed within the local authority area of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne, up to 31 December 2005*[1]

| | *1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000* | *1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001* | *1 June 2002 to 31 December 2002* | *1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003* | *1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004* | *1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005* | *1 June 2000 to 31 December 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of Newcastle upon Tyne | — | 4 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 34 | 58 |

[1] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa).

*Notes:*

1. This local authority area table differs from criminal justice system area (cjsa) tables in that an issuing court can be outside the area in which the restrictions have been imposed. For example, an issuing court may be in Hampshire (cjsa) but restrictions apply solely to a local authority area within Dorset.
2. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

RDS-OCJR

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* anti-social behaviour orders and *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts were (i) breached and (ii) breached leading to a conviction in each police force area in each year for which figures are available; [172872]

(2) how many *(a)* anti-social behaviour orders and *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts were issued by each police force in each year for which figures are available. [172858]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys carried out by the Respect Task Force of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicated that over 25,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003.

Antisocial behaviour orders are issued by the courts. Statistics on breaches of antisocial behaviour order are collected centrally only where the breach has been proven in court. Criminal justice system (CJS) areas are coterminous with police force areas. The available information is shown in the tables.

*Number of ASBOs proven in court to have been breached at least once between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2005 by CJS area*[1]

| *CJS area* | *Number breached* |
|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 103 |
| Bedfordshire | 32 |
| Cambridgeshire | 34 |
| Cheshire | 90 |
| Cleveland | 74 |
| Cumbria | 68 |
| Derbyshire | 51 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 53 |
| Dorset | 51 |
| Durham | 71 |
| Dyfed Powys | 16 |
| Essex | 81 |
| Gloucestershire | 41 |
| Greater London | 463 |
| Greater Manchester | 686 |
| Gwent | 46 |
| Hampshire | 133 |
| Hertfordshire | 54 |
| Humberside | 100 |
| Kent[2] | 22 |
| Lancashire | 176 |
| Leicestershire | 59 |
| Lincolnshire | 21 |
| Merseyside | 136 |
| Norfolk | 45 |
| Northamptonshire[2] | 9 |
| Northumbria | 131 |
| North Wales | 77 |
| North Yorkshire | 41 |
| Nottinghamshire | 109 |
| South Wales | 59 |
| South Yorkshire | 132 |
| Staffordshire | 67 |
| Suffolk | 65 |
| Surrey | 48 |
| Sussex | 121 |
| Thames Valley | 70 |
| Warwickshire | 48 |
| West Mercia | 103 |
| West Midlands | 373 |
| West Yorkshire | 384 |
| Wiltshire | 25 |
| England and Wales | 4,568 |

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table on the area of Issue.

[2] Breach data from the magistrates' court administrative systems in Kent and Northamptonshire are known to have been under-reported.

*Note:*

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

OCJR Court Proceedings Database

*Number of anti-social behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by CJS area and year, April 1999 to December 2005*

| *CJS Area* | *April 1999 to May 2000* | *June 2000 to December 2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 9 | 3 | 19 | 10 | 31 | 89 | 61 | 222 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 18 | 40 | 82 |
| Cambridgeshire | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 26 | 50 | 101 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 33 | 62 | 98 | 208 |

*Number of anti-social behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by CJS area and year, April 1999 to December 2005*

| *CJS Area* | *April 1999 to May 2000* | *June 2000 to December 2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 28 | 60 | 116 |
| Cumbria | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 20 | 31 | 49 | 116 |
| Derbyshire | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 46 | 54 | 128 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1 | 0 | 10 |  | 12 | 80 | 72 | 178 |
| Dorset | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 36 | 19 | 77 |
| Durham | 0 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 16 | 31 | 27 | 96 |
| Essex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 59 | 72 | 149 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 26 | 30 | 68 |
| Greater London | 9 | 19 | 15 | 21 | 139 | 441 | 528 | 1,172 |
| Greater Manchester | 10 | 2 | 25 | 78 | 236 | 430 | 456 | 1,237 |
| Hampshire | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 43 | 99 | 112 | 273 |
| Hertfordshire | 1 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 17 | 40 | 72 | 146 |
| Humberside | 0 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 72 | 137 | 236 |
| Kent | 0 | 3 | 17 | 16 | 25 | 54 | 44 | 159 |
| Lancashire | 5 | 5 | 11 | 13 | 54 | 126 | 148 | 362 |
| Leicestershire | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 41 | 59 | 121 |
| Lincolnshire | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 20 | 43 |
| Merseyside | 8 | 3 | 7 | 22 | 44 | 96 | 128 | 308 |
| Norfolk | 6 | 0 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 43 | 46 | 123 |
| Northamptonshire | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 39 | 31 | 85 |
| Northumbria | 7 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 25 | 74 | 173 | 309 |
| North Yorkshire | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 41 | 34 | 95 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1 | 4 | 11 | 2 | 21 | 91 | 126 | 256 |
| South Yorkshire | 3 | 1 | 7 | 19 | 34 | 80 | 104 | 248 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 30 | 59 | 59 | 170 |
| Suffolk | 3 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 25 | 78 | 53 | 168 |
| Surrey | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 48 | 49 | 110 |
| Sussex | 3 | 4 | 3 | 16 | 31 | 97 | 94 | 248 |
| Thames Valley | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 16 | 77 | 55 | 163 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 11 | 28 | 30 | 87 |
| West Mercia | 5 | 8 | 39 | 30 | 28 | 56 | 70 | 236 |
| West Midlands | 11 | 28 | 58 | 30 | 119 | 238 | 303 | 787 |
| West Yorkshire | 4 | 2 | 14 | 14 | 97 | 305 | 260 | 696 |
| *England* | 104 | 135 | 344 | 414 | 1,272 | 3,317 | 3,845 | 9,431 |
| Dyfed Powys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 35 |
| Gwent | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 27 | 33 | 72 |
| North Wales | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 15 | 42 | 103 | 168 |
| South Wales | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 29 | 46 | 64 | 147 |
| *Wales* | 0 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 64 | 123 | 215 | 422 |
| Total England and Wales | 104 | 137 | 350 | 426 | 1,336 | 3,440 | 4,060 | 9,853 |

[1]: Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.

[2]: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
*RDS*-OCJR

## Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Children

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in respect of 10 to 17-year-olds for the longest period for which figures are available, broken down by local authority area. [164779]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information is available at Criminal Justice System Area level only. Annual data from April 1999 to 31 December 2005 (latest available), are given in the table.

*Table A2: Persons aged 10-17: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service by area and year, April 1999[1] to December 2005*

|  |  | *Total* |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *CJS area* | *Total issued* | *April 1999-May 2000[1]* | *June 2000 to December 2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
| Avon and Somerset | 71 | — | 2 | 7 | 4 | 10 |

*Table A2: Persons aged 10-17: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service by area and year, April 1999[1] to December 2005*

| | | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *CJS area* | *Total issued* | *April 1999-May 2000*[1] | *June 2000 to December 2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* |
| Bedfordshire | 28 | — | 0 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Cambridgeshire | 30 | — | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Cheshire | 81 | — | 0 | 2 | 5 | 14 |
| Cleveland | 64 | — | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| Cumbria | 50 | — | 0 | 0 | 5 | 7 |
| Derbyshire | 44 | — | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 33 | — | 0 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Dorset | 41 | — | 2 | 3 | 0 | 10 |
| Durham | 44 | — | 2 | 5 | 5 | 8 |
| Essex | 71 | — | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Gloucestershire | 39 | — | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Greater London | 359 | — | 10 | 10 | 4 | 41 |
| Greater Manchester | 626 | — | 2 | 17 | 54 | 145 |
| Hampshire | 123 | — | 0 | 3 | 8 | 22 |
| Hertfordshire | 64 | — | 1 | 4 | 6 | 11 |
| Humberside | 112 | — | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Kent | 77 | — | 2 | 15 | 4 | 12 |
| Lancashire | 155 | — | 2 | 4 | 12 | 36 |
| Leicestershire | 45 | — | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Lincolnshire | 16 | — | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Merseyside | 151 | — | 1 | 4 | 18 | 23 |
| Norfolk | 37 | — | 0 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| Northamptonshire | 28 | — | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Northumbria | 125 | — | 2 | 3 | 12 | 9 |
| North Yorkshire | 27 | — | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 106 | — | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| South Yorkshire | 110 | — | 1 | 4 | 10 | 12 |
| Staffordshire | 78 | — | 0 | 3 | 7 | 12 |
| Suffolk | 59 | — | 0 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| Surrey | 48 | — | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Sussex | 116 | — | 4 | 2 | 10 | 16 |
| Thames Valley | 39 | — | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Warwickshire | 40 | — | 0 | 2 | 10 | 6 |
| West Mercia | 96 | — | 3 | 21 | 12 | 13 |
| West Midlands | 216 | — | 9 | 28 | 13 | 23 |
| West Yorkshire | 354 | — | 2 | 9 | 11 | 60 |
| Wiltshire | 16 | — | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| England | 3,819 | — | 61 | 190 | 242 | 590 |
| Dyfed Powys | 6 | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gwent | 40 | — | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| North Wales | 77 | — | 1 | 0 | 4 | 9 |
| South Wales | 55 | — | 0 | 1 | 1 | 17 |
| Wales | 178 | — | 1 | 3 | 7 | 30 |
| Total England and Wales | 3,997 | — | 62 | 193 | 249 | 620 |

| | 2004 | | | | | 2005 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *CJS area* | *January to March* | *April to June* | *July to September* | *October to December* | *Total* | *January to March* | *April to June* | *July to September* | *October to December* | *Total* |
| Avon and Somerset | 5 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 30 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 18 |
| Bedfordshire | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 14 |
| Cheshire | 3 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 28 | 5 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 32 |
| Cleveland | 3 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 28 |
| Cumbria | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 26 |
| Derbyshire | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 22 |

| | 2004 | | | | | 2005 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *CJS area* | *January to March* | *April to June* | *July to September* | *October to December* | *Total* | *January to March* | *April to June* | *July to September* | *October to December* | *Total* |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 17 |
| Dorset | 2 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Durham | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 11 |
| Essex | 4 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 30 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 35 |
| Gloucestershire | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 17 |
| Greater London | 16 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 106 | 46 | 65 | 36 | 41 | 188 |
| Greater Manchester | 48 | 52 | 51 | 56 | 207 | 52 | 57 | 53 | 39 | 201 |
| Hampshire | 8 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 46 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 44 |
| Hertfordshire | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 3 | 13 | 4 | 26 |
| Humberside | 3 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 35 | 19 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 65 |
| Kent | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 22 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 22 |
| Lancashire | 7 | 10 | 18 | 18 | 53 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 48 |
| Leicestershire | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 25 |
| Lincolnshire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Merseyside | 11 | 8 | 12 | 17 | 48 | 18 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 57 |
| Norfolk | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| Northamptonshire | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Northumbria | 3 | 11 | 8 | 14 | 36 | 22 | 19 | 15 | 7 | 63 |
| North Yorkshire | 5 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 28 | 16 | 13 | 15 | 17 | 61 |
| South Yorkshire | 4 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 41 | 13 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 42 |
| Staffordshire | 2 | 2 | 19 | 5 | 28 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 28 |
| Suffolk | 2 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 24 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 18 |
| Surrey | 3 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 25 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 16 |
| Sussex | 3 | 18 | 10 | 14 | 45 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 16 | 39 |
| Thames Valley | 1 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 21 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| Warwickshire | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 11 |
| West Mercia | 4 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 25 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 22 |
| West Midlands | 8 | 8 | 22 | 17 | 55 | 27 | 23 | 22 | 16 | 88 |
| West Yorkshire | 42 | 49 | 34 | 31 | 156 | 26 | 27 | 30 | 33 | 116 |
| Wiltshire | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| England | 220 | 311 | 363 | 375 | 1,269 | 419 | 402 | 346 | 300 | 1,467 |
| Dyfed Powys | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Gwent | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 20 |
| North Wales | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 23 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 40 |
| South Wales | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 24 |
| Wales | 13 | 8 | 13 | 15 | 49 | 27 | 21 | 25 | 15 | 88 |
| Total England and Wales | 233 | 319 | 376 | 390 | 1,318 | 446 | 423 | 371 | 315 | 1,555 |

[1] No age details available for the period April 1999 to May 2000.

*Notes:*

1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. Prepared by RDS-OCJR.

## Asylum: Sleeping Rough

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the number of asylum seekers living on the streets. [163634]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The information requested is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## British Nationality

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to extend the time period before non-UK citizens resident in the United Kingdom can apply for naturalisation. [162038]

**Mr. Byrne:** We keep under continuing review all relevant periods for qualification for entry into the UK, settlement, and naturalisation.

### Chinese Community: Greater London

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to work with Chinatown employers on the issue of migrant workers; and if she will make a statement. [162699]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency is working with the Chinese community and has agreed to hold workshops to inform local employers on their legal responsibilities when employing migrant workers.

### Databases: Genetics

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent meetings she has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on *(a)* terrorism and *(b)* an increase of the 28 days maximum pre-charge detention of suspected terrorists; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; what the cost was of each meeting, broken down by (A) administrative costs and (B) other costs; and if she will make a statement. [169432]

**Mr. McNulty:** Ministers have not met the Director of Public Prosecutions recently on terrorism-related issues. However, we have undertaken an extensive consultation on proposals for forthcoming counter-terrorism legislation, including extending the maximum period of pre-charge detention for terrorist suspects, and this approach has been widely welcomed. The Director of Public Prosecutions has been involved in discussions at official level on this issue.

### Departmental Manpower

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants in her Department *(a)* transferred to other Government departments and *(b)* left the Civil Service in each of the last five years. [162736]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 203W.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the full-time equivalent headcount in her Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for her Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [163974]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of staff in the Home Office is published in the quarterly Public Sector Employment report at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0907.pdf

The Home Office is unable to provide information on projected staff figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10. The Department has yet to finalise work force forward projections.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in her Department in 2007. [165121]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Office, which includes the Border and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, does not hold the information requested. Applicants for employment are asked but not required to provide this information.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which agencies and programmes in her Department will have a real terms reduction in their budget in 2008-09 arising out of the conclusions of the comprehensive spending review. [164787]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Office budget for 2008-09 to 2010-11 was settled in the Budget of 2006 and maintained expenditure in real terms over this period. The subsequent 2007 comprehensive spending review allocated additional resource of over £220 million per year to 2010-11 for counter-terrorism and security—taking real growth in the Department's total budget to over 1 per cent. per year over the CSR 07 period.

Budget allocations for 2008-09 onwards are currently under discussion and have not yet been delegated to individual directorates, agencies or programmes at this time.

The provisional police funding settlement for the CSR years will be announced in early December as in previous years.

### Departments: Official Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will break down the figures referred to in the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 9233W, on Departments: official hospitality, to give the amounts spent on each function at which hospitality expenses were incurred. [162191]

**Mr. Byrne:** A breakdown of the figures, given in the answer of 29 October, 2007, could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Deportation

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* foreign national prisoners were (i) deported or removed and (ii) informed that they were not subject to deportation or removal proceedings after receiving a non-custodial sentence in each year since 1997. [163708]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has written regularly to the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months providing the most robust and accurate data relating to foreign national prisoners. Copies of this correspondence are available in the Library of the House.

### Entry Clearances: Employment

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what employment-related schemes there are under which non-EU citizens are able to obtain *(a)* leave to enter or *(b)* leave to remain in the UK; and how many non-EU citizens have obtained such leave since (i) 1997 and (ii) 2004, broken down by scheme. [162141]

**Mr. Byrne:** The main employment routes available to non-EU nationals are listed as follows.

Au Pairs Business Persons
Domestic Workers in Private Households
Fresh Talent Working in Scotland Scheme (FTWISS) Gap Year Students Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP)
Innovator
International Graduate Scheme
Investor
Sole Representative
Japan Youth Exchange Minister of Religion
Overseas Government Employee
Representative of Overseas Newspapers
UK Ancestry
Working
Work Permit

In addition to these there are a number of smaller infrequently utilised employment categories such as provision for Aircrew and Off Shore Workers.

Statistical information on each scheme in the format provided could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006' command paper gives the most up to date information on leave to enter and extensions of leave to remain granted to non-EEA nationals available at that time. A link for ease of reference follows:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm71/7197/7197.asp.

Copies are also available in the House Library.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU A8 nationals have been registered under the worker registration scheme since 1 May 2004, broken down by *(a)* nationality, *(b)* year and *(c)* quarter. [162345]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information concerning the number of A8 nationals is published quarterly in The Accession Monitoring Report. This report currently gives data from 1 May 2004 to 30 June 2007 and a copy has already been deposited in both House Libraries.

The information you require is published in table 3 of the report, at the following link:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

The next Accession Monitoring Report will be published on 20 November 2007.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* highly skilled and *(b)* dependents of highly skilled migrants have been given leave to enter the UK in each year since the inception of the scheme, broken down by nationality. [162672]

**Mr. Byrne:** The available data are in the following table and relate to the number of highly skilled migrants approved for the highly skilled migrant programme during the period 2002 to September 2007.

Dependant information is not centrally recorded.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

*HSMP applications granted between 1 January 2002 and 30 September 2007—out of country applications only*

| Nationality | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007[1] | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Albania | 0 | [2] | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 5 |
| Algeria | [2] | 5 | [2]— | 5 | 0 | [2]— | 10 |
| American Samoa | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Argentina | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 35 |
| Armenia | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 30 |
| Australia | 50 | 90 | 185 | 445 | 465 | 745 | 1,980 |
| Azerbaijan | [2]— | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 25 | 55 |
| Bahamas | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 5 |
| Bahrain | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 5 |
| Bangladesh | 5 | 35 | 85 | 190 | 250 | 90 | 660 |
| Barbados | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 5 | [2]— | 5 | 15 |
| Belarus | [2]— | 5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 25 |
| Belize | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Bolivia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Botswana | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 5 |
| Brazil | 0 | 5 | 20 | 25 | 80 | 25 | 160 |
| Brit Nat Overseas | 5 | 10 | [2]— | 5 | [2]— | 5 | 25 |
| British Overseas Citizen | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Bulgaria | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 5 | 80 |
| Cambodia | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Cameroon | 0 | 5 | [2]— | 5 | 10 | 5 | 30 |
| Canada | 20 | 45 | 60 | 90 | 105 | 120 | 445 |
| Chile | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 5 | 5 | [2]— | 10 |
| China | 10 | 45 | 115 | 230 | 135 | 105 | 645 |
| Colombia | 5 | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 10 | 10 | 35 |
| Congo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Croatia | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| Curacao | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Cyprus | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Czech Republic | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Dominica | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Dominican Republic | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | [2]— | 0 | 5 |
| Ecuador | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 5 |
| Egypt | 5 | 15 | 25 | 20 | 65 | 40 | 170 |
| El Salvador | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |
| Eritrea | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 5 |
| Estonia | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Ethiopia | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 10 | 40 |
| Federal Republic of Yugoslavia | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2] |
| Gambia | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 5 |
| Georgia | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | [2]— | 20 |
| Ghana | [2]— | 10 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 90 |
| Grenada | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Guatemala | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Guinea-bissau | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Guyana | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | [2]— | 5 | 0 | 10 |

*HSMP applications granted between 1 January 2002 and 30 September 2007—out of country applications only*

| *Nationality* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007*[1] | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Honduras | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |
| Hong Kong (British) | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 5 | [2]— | 5 | 10 |
| Hong Kong (Chinese) | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China | 0 | [2]— | 5 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 10 |
| Hungary | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Iceland | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| India | 95 | 315 | 1,020 | 2,280 | 2,395 | 2,710 | 8,815 |
| Indonesia | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 10 | 10 | 30 |
| Iran | 5 | 20 | 20 | 25 | 20 | 25 | 115 |
| Iraq | 5 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 55 |
| Israel | 5 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 35 | 185 |
| Jamaica | 5 | 10 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 75 |
| Japan | 5 | 5 | 15 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 85 |
| Jordan | [2] | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 35 |
| Kazakhstan | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 20 |
| Kenya | 5 | 10 | 15 | 25 | 20 | 40 | 115 |
| Korea North (Democratic Peoples Rep of) | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 5 |
| Korea South (Rep of Korea) | 0 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 65 |
| Kuwait | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |
| Kyrgyzstan | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 5 | [2]— | 10 |
| Latvia | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Lebanon | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 5 | 5 | 15 |
| Liberia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Libya | [2]— | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | [2]— | 10 |
| Lithuania | [2]— | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Macedonia | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |
| Malawi | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | [2]— | 5 | 15 |
| Malaysia | 5 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 35 | 85 | 195 |
| Maldives | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |
| Malta | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Mauritania | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 5 |
| Mauritius | [2]— | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 50 |
| Mexico | [2]— | 5 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 60 |
| Moldova (Rep of) | 0 | [2]— | 5 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 35 |
| Mongolia | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 5 |
| Morocco | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 10 |
| Myanmar | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 5 |
| Namibia | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 15 |
| Nepal | [2]— | 10 | 30 | 85 | 125 | 90 | 340 |
| Nevis—Leeward Islands | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| New Caledonia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| New Zealand | 5 | 45 | 110 | 295 | 370 | 630 | 1,450 |
| Nicaragua | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Niger | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 5 |
| Nigeria | 20 | 130 | 305 | 840 | 1,115 | 1,060 | 3,475 |
| Oman | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |
| Pakistan | 40 | 200 | 730 | 1,300 | 1,135 | 870 | 4,275 |
| Palestine | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 5 |
| Papua New Guinea | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Paraguay | 0 | [2] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Peru | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 35 |
| Philippines | [2]— | 10 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 70 |
| Poland | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Romania | 0 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 15 | 5 | 60 |
| Russian Federation | 5 | 45 | 80 | 180 | 220 | 150 | 680 |
| Saudi Arabia | 0 | [2]— | 5 | 10 | 5 | [2]— | 20 |
| Senegal | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 5 |
| Serbia | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 5 | 5 | 20 |
| Seychelles | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Sierra Leone | [2]— | 5 | 5 | 5 | [2]— | [2]— | 15 |
| Singapore | 10 | 10 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 30 | 105 |
| Slovakia | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Slovenia | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Solomon Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |
| South Africa | 40 | 185 | 290 | 365 | 345 | 475 | 1,700 |
| Sri Lanka | 5 | 30 | 50 | 130 | 145 | 190 | 550 |
| St. Kitts and Nevis | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| St. Lucia | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| St. Vincent and The Grenadines | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |
| Sudan | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | [2] | 45 |
| Suriname | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Swaziland | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 5 |
| Syria (Arab Rep) | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Taiwan Province of China | [2]— | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 30 |
| Tanzania (United Rep of) | [2]— | 5 | 5 | [2]— | 5 | 5 | 20 |
| Thailand | [2]— | 0 | 5 | [2]— | [2]— | 10 | 15 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | [2]— | 10 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 55 |
| Tunisia | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 5 |
| Turkey | 5 | 25 | 25 | 55 | 40 | 80 | 230 |
| Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— |
| Turkmenistan | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| Uganda | [2]— | [2]— | 5 | 10 | 5 | 20 | 40 |
| Ukraine | [2]— | 5 | 25 | 55 | 85 | 55 | 230 |
| United Arab Emirates | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | 0 | 0 | [2]— |
| United States of America | 125 | 275 | 295 | 415 | 405 | 490 | 2,000 |
| Uruguay | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 5 |
| Uzbekistan | 0 | [2]— | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 25 |
| Venezuela | [2]— | 10 | [2]— | 5 | 5 | 5 | 30 |
| Vietnam | 0 | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— | 5 |
| Yemen | 0 | [2]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | [2]— | 5 |
| Yugoslavia | 0 | 5 | 0 | [2]— | 0 | [2]— | 10 |
| Zambia | 5 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 70 |
| Zimbabwe | 20 | 45 | 55 | 55 | 40 | 50 | 270 |
| Total | 565 | 1,885 | 3,905 | 7,665 | 8,070 | 8,590 | 30,675 |

[1] 1 January 2007 to 30 September 2007

[2] Indicates 1 or 2

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

## Foreigners: Crime

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have been convicted of crimes related to the *(a)* possession of firearms and *(b)* selling of illegal drugs in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [163778]

**Mr. Coaker:** The courts proceedings database does not hold information regarding the nationality of those convicted for any offence—including offences involving firearms or the sale of illegal drugs.

### Illegal Immigrants: Security Guards

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any individuals identified as working in the security industry without valid immigration status are working in Chipping Barnet constituency. [164621]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not available. The SIA holds only the domestic addresses of licence holders, not their work addresses.

As the Home Secretary announced to Parliament on 13 November, work is under way on retrospective right to work checks on the estimated 40,000 non-EEA nationals who were granted licences before 2 July 2007. The Home Secretary will report again to Parliament in December when this work is complete.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she was first alerted to the fact that illegal immigrants were being issued with licences by the Security Industry Association; and if she will make a statement. [165931]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* I refer to the statement I made to the House on 13 November about Security Industry Authority licensing checks and the issue of entitlement to work in the United Kingdom.

### Immigration: Heathrow Airport

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was at immigration for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via London Heathrow Terminal *(a)* Two, *(b)* Three and *(c)* Four in the first six months of 2007. [163093]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* We recognise that we have a responsibility to process genuine passengers without delay but the safety and security of the public is our priority.

There are arrangements in place at selected ports to benchmark performance. The ports in question are using a 45 minutes (non-EEA) and 25 minutes (EEA) queuing time as such a benchmark. This in turn informs staff deployment as well as informing considerations on further investment. We are clear that the averages are well within these benchmarks but will continue to reduce the occasions of exceeding those figures.

The figures held do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and is currently treated as provisional.

*Figures available from Heathrow showing percentage of non-EEA passengers waiting under 45 minutes for the first six months of 2007*

| Terminal | January | February | March | April | May | June |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T2 | 100 | 100 | 100 | n/a | n/a | 100 |
| T3 | 100 | 93 | 100 | 95 | 95.28 | 96.8 |
| T4 | 100 | 100 | 100 | n/a | 95 | 100 |

n/a = Not available.

### Missing Persons: Children

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of five years who went missing in the UK and are still unaccounted for went missing in each year since 2000. [169708]

**Mr. McNulty:** At the present time, the information requested is not collated centrally. Working with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has been tasked with setting up a new and enhanced Police National Missing Person's Bureau (PNMPB) and to identify and promulgate good practice in the capture, recording and sharing of data around missing persons. The PNMPB will begin its work on 1 April 2008.

### Motor Insurance Database

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area were impounded following reference to the Motor Insurance Database in each year since May 2004; and if she will make a statement. [172838]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information in the form requested is not available. I understand from the chief constable of Cambridgeshire that between April 2006 and October 2007 the force seized 3,825 vehicles for being driven by a someone without valid insurance.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times Cambridgeshire Constabulary accessed the Motor Insurance Database in each month since May 2004; and if she will make a statement. [172841]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not recorded centrally.

### Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were killed in gun or knife attacks in *(a)* London, *(b)* Lewisham, *(c)* Lambeth, *(d)* Brent, *(e)* Hackney, *(f)* Southwark, *(g)* Leicester, *(h)* Birmingham, *(i)* Liverpool and *(j)* Manchester in each of the last five years. [164093]

**Mr. Coaker:** Available information relates to the number of homicides recorded at police force area level during the period 2001-02 to 2005-06 where the apparent method of killing was 'sharp instrument' or 'shooting'.

*Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2] or shooting[3], selected police force areas, 2001-02 to 2005-06[4]*

| | | Year offence initially recorded as homicide[5] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Police force area | Apparent method of killing | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| London[6, 7] | Sharp instrument | 68 | 68 | 61 | 60 | 48 |
| | Shooting | 43 | 31 | 22 | 27 | 22 |
| Leicestershire[8] | Sharp instrument | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| | Shooting | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| West Midlands[8] | Sharp instrument | 19 | 17 | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| | Shooting | 7 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Merseyside[7] | Sharp instrument | 3 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 10 |
| | Shooting | 6 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| Greater Manchester[8] | Sharp instrument | 23 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 11 |
| | Shooting | 11 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 |

[1] As at 9 October 2006; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Includes knives as well as other sharp instruments.
[3] Includes shooting by crossbows. Excludes cases where firearm was used as a blunt instrument.
[4] Data for 2006-07 are scheduled to be published in late January 2008.
[5] Homicide offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[6] Figures for Lewisham, Brent, Hackney and Southwark cannot be provided as data from the Homicide Index cannot be broken down to borough level.
[7] Homicides recorded by the Metropolitan police service and City of London police.
[8] Figures for Leicester, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester cannot be provided as data from the Homicide Index cannot be broken down to city level.

## Police: Databases

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures exist to ensure that all police records are updated on people *(a)* being held in custody and *(b)* wanted for arrest; [169845]

(2) what procedures exist to ensure that all police forces are aware of updated information on criminals *(a)* being held and *(b)* wanted for arrest. [169846]

**Mr. McNulty:** There are national standards on data entry and quality standards on the Police National Computer (PNC) which are contained in the PNC manual. The manual provides information on those procedures that are applicable for updating PNC records with information regarding individuals detained in custody and wanted for arrest. This is interpreted, and supplemented, by individual police forces' own local procedures. The PNC manual is updated at six-monthly intervals and is made available to all police forces.

In addition, police forces can, depending on the business need, broadcast a message via PNC to other forces regarding individuals who are either wanted or who have been detained. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary conducts audits of force procedures for compliance with this manual and other Association of Chief Police Officers policy.

## Police: Migrants

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what data her Department uses to estimate the numbers of migrants in police authorities in England and Wales; [162090]

(2) what adjustments are made to the police formula grant for police authorities in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales to take account of the numbers of migrants in individual police authority areas. [162091]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* When calculating formula grant allocations, we use the best available data that treat all authorities on a consistent basis.

For population, these are the population estimates and projections produced by the Office for National Statistics. Recent methodological changes have been made to improve the account of the effects of international migration.

## Police: Terrorism

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many terrorist operations have been foiled in each year for which records are available. [162273]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* We are unable to provide a breakdown of terrorist operations for each year. However the Security Service and police have disrupted 12 major plots since 2000.

## Prisoners: Compensation

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid to foreign prisoners in compensation for unlawful detention in custody beyond the end of their sentences in each of the last 10 years. [163351]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not available centrally and can be collected only at disproportionate cost.

The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February and provided an update on the issue of compensation payments to foreign national prisoners who had been detained unlawfully. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

### Prisoners: Deportation

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners are subject to deportation notices. [163345]

**Mr. Byrne:** The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has written regularly to the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months providing the most robust and accurate data relating to foreign national prisoners. Copies of this correspondence are available from the Library of the House.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to seek the deportation of foreign prisoners from the date of their conviction; and if she will make a statement. [163723]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* Under the UK Borders Act, the Secretary of State must make a deportation order where a foreign national is imprisoned for 12 months or more or for any length of time for a particularly serious offence. This will bring greater certainty to the deportation process. A foreign criminal will know from the point of conviction that they will face deportation, save where one of the five exceptions specified in the Act applies.

### Research, Information and Communications Unit

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Research, Information and Communications Unit was instigated; what factors underlay the decision to create this unit; how many officials are employed in the unit; and if she will make a statement. [172384]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The creation of a Research, Information and Communication Unit (RICU) was announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in March 2007, alongside the creation of the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT), as part of wider machinery of Government changes. RICU is a cross-Government resource, based in the Home Office, reporting to my right hon. Friends the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and staffed from a wide range of Government Departments.

The decision to create this Unit was taken to address the need for coherent and effective communications across Government in countering terrorism—in particular to support the strategy of tackling violent extremism locally, nationally and internationally.

A small team is being established, which as at 7 December employs 13 officials. We are in the process of expanding that capacity.

### Security Guards: Licensing

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list all those private security firms accredited by the Security Industry Authority which carry out security services for Government Departments and non-departmental government bodies which are known to have employed people not entitled to work in the UK. [165948]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* This information is not available. The Security Industry Authority licences individuals rather than companies.

Security firms are not required to be approved or accredited by the SIA. The SIA manages a voluntary approved contractor scheme (ACS) which provides a framework for setting, improving and monitoring the standards of business management and organisation among companies that provide private security services. As at 12 November, 404 companies, employing close to 100,000 individuals, had been granted approval under the ACS.

As the Home Secretary announced to Parliament on 13 November, work is under way on retrospective right to work checks on the estimated 40,000 non-EEA nationals who were granted licences before 2 July 2007. The Home Secretary will report again to Parliament in December when this work is complete.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the process is by which the Security Industry Authority (SIA) investigates a person for grant of a licence to work in the security industry; and what methods are used by the SIA to check *(a)* EU, *(b)* British and *(c)* other applicants' (i) identity and (ii) criminal background. [166470]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the criteria which the Security Industry Authority (SIA) apply in determining whether to grant a licence, and on other aspects of the licensing process, is contained in the SIA's booklet "Get Licensed". The booklet includes guidance on the activities for which a licence is required, the qualifications required and the checks which the SIA make. The SIA's booklet "SIA Licence Application Form Guidance Notes", gives further details of the information which the SIA require to process an application. Both documents are available on the SIA website at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/about_sia/publications/publications_licensing.htm

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the functions of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) are; and what the purpose is of the licences that the SIA issues. [166471]

**Mr. Coaker:** The functions of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) are set out in section 1 of the Private Security Industry Act (PSIA) 2001.

The SIA issues licences to individuals who engage in any licensable conduct so defined under schedule 2 of the PSIA 2001. This compulsory licensing helps ensure that those working within the industry are fit and proper persons who have received adequate vocational training for the role they perform. It is a criminal offence to engage in licensable conduct without a licence.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for a Security Industry Authority licence since 1 October have been refused one as a result of being found not to have the right to work in the UK. [166477]

**Mr. Coaker:** It is the legal duty of all employers to ensure that those they employ are entitled to work in the UK. However, while under no legal obligation to do so, since 2 July the SIA has carried out full right to work checks on all applications for SIA licences.

The SIA publishes a weekly update of its licensing statistics which include the type and number of licences refused. This is available on the SIA's website at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/licensing/stats_2.htm

As the Home Secretary announced to Parliament on 13 November, work is under way on retrospective right to work checks on the estimated 40,000 non-EEA nationals who were granted licences before 2 July 2007. The Home Secretary will report again to Parliament when this work is complete.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licence applications to the Security Industry Association were turned down in each year since 2004. [168345]

**Mr. Coaker:** The numbers of licence applications refused by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) in the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08 are set out in the following table.

The figure for 2007-08 is for the year to date.

| *Financial year* | *Licence applications refused* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,067 |
| 2005-06 | 2,378 |
| 2006-07 | 3,422 |
| 2007-08[1] | 2,815 |

[1] Up to 16 November.

### Sick Leave: Dismissal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163700]

**Mr. Byrne:** Staff with a poor sickness absence record are managed under Attendance Management policies operated within Home Office Headquarters, the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA), the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). The number of attendance management warnings and dismissals recorded on central information systems held by Home Office HQ, BIA and CRB for the calendar years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (to 31 October 2007) are in the table.

Central records were not held prior to 2005 within Home Office HQ or BIA and data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The table does not include attendance management warnings issued by the Criminal Records Bureau or the Identity and Passport Service.

The Criminal Records Bureau does not hold this information centrally and it could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Fewer than five members of CRB staff were dismissed under the Attendance Management policy in 2003 and 2004. Further information about those cases is withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

Attendance issues within the Identity and Passport Service are managed using its Managing Attendance policy which has due regard for individuals with disabilities. Employment can be terminated by medical retirement or capability dismissal with or without compensation.

Seven staff were dismissed from the Identity and Passport Service in 2005-06 and 13 staff were dismissed in 2006-07 on grounds of inefficiency linked to a poor attendance record. Previous years' information is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| *2005* | |
| Dismissal | 5 |
| Final formal warning | 10 |
| First formal warning | 63 |
| Grand total | 78 |
| *2006* | |
| Dismissal | 26 |
| Final formal warning | 46 |
| First formal warning | 197 |
| Grand total | 269 |
| *2007 (to 30 October 2007)* | |
| Dismissal final | 29 |
| Formal warning first | 41 |
| Formal warning | 202 |
| Grand total | 272 |

### Terrorism: Detainees

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the risks of premature charging of suspects in terrorism cases due to the impending expiry of the 28 day limit on detention without charge; and if she will make a statement. [164008]

**Mr. McNulty:** There is no evidence to suggest that premature charging of suspects in terrorism cases occurs. Crown prosecutors are responsible for deciding whether a person should be charged with a criminal offence, and if so, what that offence should be. They make these decisions in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors and the Director's Guidance on Charging. The code sets out the general principles Crown prosecutors should follow when they make decisions on cases. In cases where it is proposed to keep the suspect in custody after charge, but the evidence required to apply the Full Code Test is not yet available, the Threshold test can be used. This test is frequently used in terrorism cases and a charge is brought at the earliest opportunity. It is already possible to make a judicial challenge to unlawful detention through the use of habeas corpus proceedings. No such challenge has been made in terrorism cases.

### Terrorism: Expenditure

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on counter-terrorism measures by her Department in 2006; and if she will provide a breakdown of this spending by main category of expenditure. [162051]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Office 2007 departmental report, published in July 2007, details spending on counter terrorism and intelligence for the period 2005-06. It also provides an estimated outturn for the period 2006-07, which we expect to report against in the 2008 departmental report.

The 2007 departmental report can be found on the Home Office website at the following address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-07?version=1

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related emergency admissions to hospitals in Wirral West constituency there have been since 1997. [171047]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the numbers of patients admitted to hospital for alcohol related conditions at Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

| | *Finished admission episodes* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 2,686 |
| 2004-05 | 2,484 |
| 2003-04 | 2,131 |
| 2002-03 | 1,781 |
| 2001-02 | 1,809 |
| 2000-01 | 1,148 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,179 |
| 1998-99 | 1,033 |
| 1997-98 | 1,051 |

*Notes:*

1. The table shows finished admission episodes for patients admitted to hospital as an emergency with a primary or secondary diagnosis of any of the following diagnoses, for Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust only:

Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol;
Alcoholic liver disease; and
Toxic effect of alcohol.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics

### Ambulance Services: Hampshire

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average ambulance response times were in each primary care trust area in Hampshire in each year since 1997. [172314]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information requested is not held centrally.

### Ambulance Services: Pay

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on planned changes to the pay scales of ambulance drivers. [170541]

**Ann Keen:** Following resolution of the 2007-08 pay dispute, the pay scales for ambulance drivers and all other non medical national health service staff on "Agenda for Change" contracts have been revised. The NHS Employers organisation issued "Pay Circular (Agenda for Change) 4/2007" on 17 October to reflect the agreed pay uplift for 2007-08. This information has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.nhsemployers.org/restricted/downloads/download.asp?ref=3027&hash=8f331fb4e855b06293989d4ae2c4b3ba&itemplate=e_pay_conditions_3col_payrates_pay-conditions-217

### Arthritis

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Southend West of 20 October 2003, *Official Report*, column 470W, on rheumatoid arthritis, what his latest estimate is of the number of people that anti-TNF drugs help; and what the evidential basis for this figure is; [172900]

(2) what plans he has to introduce a national strategy for the care and treatment of people with rheumatoid arthritis. [172934]

**Ann Keen:** There are no plans to introduce a national strategy for rheumatoid arthritis.

The technology appraisal guidance, "Guidance on the use of etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis", published in March 2002 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, estimated that approximately 15,000 people in England and Wales would initially be eligible for anti-TNF treatment. Using an incidence of 0.5 per thousand population, an additional 950 people were estimated to become eligible for this treatment each year.

This estimate was based on a prevalence for rheumatoid arthritis of eight per thousand population, and information derived from the Norfolk Arthritis Register, a large database of all cases of arthritis recorded in Norfolk.

We are not aware of any revised estimate having been made for the number of people with rheumatoid arthritis who would benefit from this treatment.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many new cases of rheumatoid arthritis were diagnosed in each of the last five years; [172911]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in England diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in each *(a)* strategic health authority area and *(b)* primary care trust area in the most recent year for which figures are available; [172913]

(3) what estimate he has made of the total cost to *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* social services of rheumatoid arthritis in the latest period for which figures are available. [172935]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of newly diagnosed cases of rheumatoid arthritis is not collected.

We have made no estimate of the number of people diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis within each strategic health authority or primary care trust area.

We have made no estimate of the cost of rheumatoid arthritis to the national health service and social services.

### Atkinson Morley Hospital

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 232W, on Atkinson Morley Hospital, in which years the expenditure referred to was incurred; and if he will break down the total given down by main budget heading for each such year. [172646]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* London strategic health authority has advised that over the period 2002-03 to 2006-07, records from St. George's Health Care NHS Trust shows the trust incurred a total expenditure on the sale of the Atkinson Morley hospital site of £1.598 million. This total is after deducting the contribution of £165,000 from the St. George's hospital charity for the fees applicable to their property, the Firs.

The following table from the trust shows a breakdown of the costs incurred for the disposal of the Atkinson Morley hospital site.

| | | | | | | *£000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Budget heading* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Total* |
| Planning | 34 | 233 | 90 | 79 | 1 | 437 |
| Legal | 33 | 324 | 17 | 46 | 6 | 426 |
| Design | 80 | 89 | 108 | 11 | 0 | 288 |
| Estate Agents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 122 | 0 | 122 |
| Ecological services | 25 | 49 | 22 | 21 | 0 | 117 |
| Engineering services | 8 | 36 | 34 | 22 | 0 | 100 |
| Property advisers | 33 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 48 |
| Communications | 0 | 5 | 19 | 10 | 0 | 34 |
| Project management | 0 | 5 | 12 | 13 | 0 | 30 |
| Other, miscellaneous | 16 | 26 | 103 | 15 | 0 | 160 |
| SGHC contribution re: Firs | 0 | 0 | -79 | -85 | 0 | -164 |
| Total | 229 | 767 | 330 | 263 | 9 | 1,598 |

### Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the number of nurses per 100 beds in Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust matches the national average; [170851]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that the number of doctors per 100 beds in Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust matches the national average for other trusts. [170853]

**Ann Keen:** It is the responsibility of individual national health service organisations to ensure that adequate levels of staff are available to ensure that patient safety is not compromised. The following table shows the number of NHS staff in England and the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS Trust in each specified group per 11 'total available beds[1]' as at 30 September 2006[2] (which is the latest data available).

| | *Medical and dental staff* | *Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 56 | 47 |
| Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | 54 | 57 |

*Source:*
The information centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census Department of Health KH03.

### Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust: Infectious Diseases

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* *clostridium difficile* have been recorded in Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust since 1997. [167290]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not collected in the format requested.

Data on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *clostridium difficile* (C.difficile) is only available from 2001, and can be found in the following table.

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[1] The 'total available beds' figure is the average daily number of open and staffed beds on wards open overnight in NHS hospitals in England. Beds in wards that are closed temporarily for refurbishment or cleaning would not be included. Cots on maternity wards for 'well babies' are not included in the figures. Figures are submitted annually on form KH03 by each NHS trust and provide a summary across all hospital sites within the trust.

[2] Staff in post figures are as at 30 September. Figures are calculated against headcount.

*Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals MRSA bacteraemia reports (annual)*

| *April to March each year* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 92 |
| 2002-03 | 77 |
| 2003-04 | 116 |
| 2004-05 | 98 |
| 2005-06 | 69 |
| 2006-07 | 71 |

The best available data on the number of reports of *C.difficile* infections are for patients aged 65 and over and come from the mandatory surveillance scheme run by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) since 2004.

*Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals C.difficile reports (annual)—Patients aged = 65 years*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *January to December* | |
| 2004 | 648 |
| 2005 | 927 |

*Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals C.difficile reports (annual)—Patients aged = 65 years*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 622 |

*Note:*
The data shown in the tables are provisional. The HPA states that the tables contain data received prior to the final submission deadline. Late submissions of data corrections are incorporated in later publications.
*Source:*
HPA

## Broadmoor Hospital: Complaints

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many official complaints were made by patients of Broadmoor hospital to West London Mental Health Trust in each year since 1997. [170335]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested can be found in the following table. Please note that the information requested is only available from 2001.

*Written complaints about hospital and community services in West London Mental Health NHS Trust[1], England, 2001-02 to 2006-07*

| | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 93,020 | 91,023 | 90,122 | 90,413 | 95,047 | 90,801 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| West London Mental Health NHS Trust RKL | 264 | 242 | 231 | 279 | 261 | 297 |

[1] In 2001 Broadmoor Hospital Authority merged with Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham Mental Health NHS Trust to form the West London Mental Health NHS Trust. It is impossible to separate hospital level data from the census figures
*Note:*
Data as at 1 April to 31 March each year.
*Source:*
The Information Centre, dataset KO41a

## Broadmoor Hospital: Foreigners

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign nationals are held in Broadmoor Hospital. [170336]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is not held centrally.

## Broadmoor Hospital: Manpower

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many clinical staff were employed at Broadmoor hospital in each year since 1997; [170332]

(2) how many non-clinical staff were employed at Broadmoor hospital in each year since 1997. [170333]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, data in relation to the number of clinical and non-clinical staff at West London Mental Health National Health Service Trust, which includes Broadmoor hospital can be found in the following table.

*NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in the West London Mental Health NHS Trust main staff group as at 30 September each specified year*

| | | | | | | *Headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006[1]* |
| All staff | 3,180 | 3,783 | 3,924 | 4,240 | 4,157 | 4,135 |
| Professionally qualified clinical staff | 1,584 | 1,950 | 2,012 | 2,137 | 2,127 | 2,148 |
| Medical and dental staff | 181 | 201 | 208 | 236 | 242 | 252 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 1,080 | 1,354 | 1,348 | 1,438 | 1,431 | 1,451 |
| *Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff* | 323 | 395 | 456 | 463 | 454 | 445 |
| Qualified allied health professions | 87 | 118 | 123 | 165 | 136 | 124 |
| Qualified healthcare scientists | n/a | n/a | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff | 236 | 277 | 332 | 296 | 315 | 319 |
| *Support to clinical staff* | 984 | 1,177 | 1,199 | 1,327 | 1,316 | 1,238 |
| Support to doctors and nursing staff | 976 | 1,166 | 1,190 | 1,294 | 1,282 | 1,208 |
| Support to ST and T staff | 8 | 11 | 9 | 33 | 34 | 30 |
| *NHS infrastructure support* | 612 | 656 | 713 | 776 | 714 | 749 |
| Central functions | 222 | 240 | 245 | 275 | 252 | 304 |
| Hotel, property and estates | 318 | 315 | 334 | 344 | 330 | 347 |

*NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in the West London Mental Health NHS Trust main staff group as at 30 September each specified year*

*NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in the West London Mental Health NHS Trust main staff group as at 30 September each specified year*

| | | | | | | *Headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006*[1] |
| Managers and senior managers | 72 | 101 | 134 | 157 | 132 | 98 |

n/a = not applicable. The numbers of healthcare scientists were not separately identifiable until 2003.

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

*Note:*

In 2001 Broadmoor Hospital Authority merged with Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham Mental Health NHS Trust to form the West London Mental Health NHS Trust. It is impossible to separate hospital level data from the census figures.

*Sources:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

## Broadmoor Hospital: Vacancies

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical staff vacancies were unfilled at Broadmoor hospital in each year since 1997. [170339]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not held centrally.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many clinical staff vacancies at Broadmoor Hospital were advertised in each year since 1997; [170340]

(2) how many non-clinical staff vacancies at Broadmoor Hospital were advertised in each year since 1997. [170342]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information on clinical staff vacancies advertised at Broadmoor Hospital is not held in the format requested. The following table shows national health service three month vacancies for NHS staff in West London Mental Health Trust by main staff group. Data are only available from 2002.

*The Information Centre for health and social care: NHS three month vacancies for NHS staff in the West London Mental Health NHS Trust*[1] *by main staff group—three month vacancy rates and numbers as at 31 March each specified year*

| | *All doctors (excluding doctors in training)* | | *Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | | *Unqualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Three month vacancy rate (%)* | *Three month vacancy number* | *Three month vacancy rate (%)* | *Three month vacancy number* | *Three month vacancy rate (%)* | *Three month vacancy number* |
| 2007 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.5 | 4 |
| 2006 | 8.8 | 11 | 4.4 | 59 | 2.6 | 23 |
| 2005 | 5.6 | 7 | 5.4 | 73 | 4.2 | 40 |
| 2004 | 8.8 | 11 | 3.8 | 46 | 5.6 | 40 |
| 2003 | 6.9 | 8 | 11.3 | 146 | 14.0 | 107 |
| 2002 | 2.5 | 2 | 5.8 | 61 | 6.3 | 43 |

| | *All scientific, therapeutic and technical staff* | | *Of which: Qualified Allied Health Professionals* | | *Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff* | | *Unqualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff* | | *Other non-medical staff* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Three month vacancy rate (%)* | *Three month vacancy number* | *Three month vacancy rate (%)* | *Three month vacancy number* | *Three month vacancy rate (%)* | *Three month vacancy number* | *Three month vacancy rate (%)* | *Three month vacancy number* | *Three month vacancy rate (%)* | *Three month vacancy number* |
| 2007 | 2.1 | 9 | 0.0 | 0 | 3.1 | 9 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.5 | 5 |
| 2006 | 6.5 | 29 | 13.3 | 18 | 1.4 | 4 | 24.6 | 7 | 4.0 | 40 |
| 2005 | 9.6 | 44 | 18.2 | 32 | 3.2 | 8 | 17.0 | 4 | 4.7 | 48 |
| 2004 | 5.6 | 24 | 8.8 | 10 | 4.4 | 15 | * | — | 4.8 | 47 |
| 2003 | 6.7 | 28 | 9.0 | 10 | 6.1 | 17 | 3.5 | 1 | 7.0 | 66 |
| 2002 | 4.8 | 14 | 11.7 | 10 | 0.8 | 2 | * | 2 | 1.4 | 24 |

* Figures where sum of staff in post (as at 30 September 2005) and vacancies (as at 31 March 2006) is less than 10.

[1] In 2001 Broadmoor Hospital Authority merged with Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham Mental Health NHS Trust to form the West London Mental Health NHS Trust. It is impossible to separate hospital level data from the census figures.

*Notes:*

1. Vacancy data are from the Vacancies Survey March each year.
2. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents).
3. Three month Vacancy Rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
4. Three month Vacancy Rates are calculated using staff in post from the Non-Medical Workforce Census September each year.
5. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
6. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
7. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates.
8. Qualified Allied Health Professional vacancy data include qualified staff from the following occupational groups: chiropody, dietetics, occupational therapy, orthoptics/optics, physiotherapy, diagnostic and therapeutic radiography, art/music/drama therapy and speech and language therapy staff.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Vacancies Survey.

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-clinical staff vacancies were unfilled at Broadmoor Hospital in each year since 1997. [170341]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not held centrally.

### Cancer: Finance

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanisms the additional £370 million expenditure under the NHS Cancer Reform Strategy will be allocated. [171909]

**Ann Keen:** The revenue component of the £370 million will be included in primary care trust allocations. The capital funding for improvements to cancer services is included within the total capital funding available to the national health service. The detail of how this investment will be delivered will be agreed as part of the NHS capital planning process.

### Cancer: Health Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department's plans *(a)* to extend the 31 day standard to all cancer treatments, *(b)* to include all patients with suspected cancer in the 62 day pathway and *(c)* to ensure that all patients with breast symptoms seen within two weeks of referral are expected to cost in each year for which estimates have been made. [172450]

**Ann Keen:** An impact assessment was published at the same time as the new Cancer Reform Strategy on 3 December 2007. A breakdown of costs associated with going further on cancer waits are detailed in the following table:

*Estimate for annual costs in £ million*

| *Measure* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* | *2015-16* | *2016-17* | *2017-18* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31 day standard for all cancer treatments | 2.1 | 4.3 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 |
| Include all patients with suspected cancer in the 62 day pathway | 1.7 | 3.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| 2 week referral for all breast problems | 2.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 |

### Care Homes

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the frequency of inspection of care homes was in each year from 2001-02 to 2006-07; and how many homes failed to meet minimum standards for nutrition and medication in each year. [172610]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is responsible, under the Care Standards Act 2000 and associated Regulations, for all aspects of regulation and inspection of care homes providing nursing care.

Up until April 2005, all care and nursing homes were required to be inspected twice yearly. From April 2005, CSCI's inspectors started using new ways of inspecting social care providers, based on the aims set out in the consultation document, "Inspecting for Better Lives". The new inspection methodology is designed to place the people who use social care services and their experiences at the heart of the way CSCI inspects and regulates care services.

From April 2005, CSCI has carried out key inspections for care and nursing homes at a frequency determined by the quality of the service. A key inspection is a thorough, detailed inspection, under which CSCI will assess all of the key national minimum standards. For example, a 'poor' quality service will receive a minimum of two key inspections a year, an 'adequate' service will receive a minimum of one key inspection a year, a 'good' service will receive a minimum of one key inspection every two years, and an 'excellent' service will receive a key inspection a minimum of once every three years. CSCI also carries out 'random' and 'thematic' inspections, which are short, focused inspections on a specific theme or area.

The following table shows the percentages of care homes which failed to meet the National Minimum Standards (NMS) on meals and mealtimes and medication in each year from 2002-03. Information is not available for 2001-02; the NMS were introduced in April 2002.

CSCI inspectors rate homes' performance against each standard and score it on a scale of one to four. Scores of three or four mean the standard has been met. Scores one or two mean the standard has not been met. However, the score of two indicates that the failure is due to a more minor issue.

*Percentage of care homes failing to meet selected NMS at 31 March each year—NMS*

| | *Meals and mealtimes* | *Medication* |
|---|---|---|
| *Care homes for younger adults* | | |
| 2002-03 | 19 | 54 |
| 2003-04 | 14 | 43 |
| 2004-05 | 12 | 38 |
| 2005-06 | 10 | 33 |
| 2006-07 | 10 | 32 |
| | | |
| *Care homes for older people* | | |
| 2002-03 | 22 | 55 |
| 2003-04 | 18 | 47 |
| 2004-05 | 16 | 44 |
| 2005-06 | 15 | 41 |
| 2006-07 | 14 | 40 |

*Source:*
CSCI Registration and Inspection database

### Cervical Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the additional cost the NHS will incur to ensure that women in all primary care trusts receive the results of their cervical screening test within two weeks of it being taken. [172468]

**Ann Keen:** We estimate that the annual cost of ensuring that women receive the result of their cervical screening test within two weeks will be £1.1 million per year.

### Childbirth

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* midwife-led, *(b)* consultant-led and *(c)* other maternity units there were in each year since 1997; how many births there were in each type of unit in each year; and if he will make a statement. [165445]

**Ann Keen:** Some of the information requested is not available. The latest available data are in the NHS Maternity Statistics 2005-06. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

The following table gives details of the numbers of births and the percentages of those births in consultant units, general practitioner (GP) units, units led jointly by consultants, GPs and midwives and midwife or other units since 1997.

| | *Number of births* | *Consultant units* | *GP units* | *Units led jointly by consultants, GPs and midwives* | *Midwifery/other* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 585,000 | 65 | 2 | 31 | 2 |
| 1998-99 | 577,500 | 59 | 2 | 38 | 1 |
| 1999-2000 | 565,300 | 57 | 1 | 40 | 2 |
| 2000-01 | 549,600 | 57 | 2 | 38 | 3 |
| 2001-02 | 541,700 | 55 | 1 | 40 | 4 |
| 2002-03 | 548,000 | 59 | 1 | 37 | 3 |
| 2003-04 | 575,900 | 58 | 2 | 35 | 5 |
| 2004-05 | 584,100 | 54 | 1 | 40 | 5 |
| 2005-06 | 593,400 | 50 | 2 | 42 | 6 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics

### Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**David Lepper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that appropriate resources are available for NHS multidisciplinary services for myalgic encephalopathy and chronic fatigue syndrome following the recommendations of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence including on *(a)* provision of diagnostic and therapeutic options, *(b)* domiciliary services and *(c)* relevant training for health care professionals, including GPs. [167210]

**Ann Keen:** It is the responsibility of local health bodies to commission services, funded from their general allocations, to meet the needs of those in their local population living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis as detailed in the guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

### Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals he intends to implement to reduce the incidence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Peterborough primary care trust area; and if he will make a statement. [173206]

**Ann Keen:** It is for the local national health service to decide how best to provide services for the local communities they serve.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) requested that a National Service Framework (NSF) should be developed for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) following recommendations published in the CMO's annual report 2004.

The development of a NSF for COPD will result in national standards and markers of good practise. It will improve the quality of and access to COPD services, reducing inequalities and reduce healthcare utilisation costs. The NSF will also support the system reform and White Paper agendas, and fits in with recent legislation on the reduction of smoking and new home oxygen service.

The Department has set up an external reference group to advise on the COPD NSF. It is proposed that the COPD NSF will be published in 2008 with implementation at the start of 2009.

### Community Nurses: Manpower

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community matrons were employed by each primary care trust in England in each year since 2003. [166292]

**Ann Keen:** Community matrons were identified separately for the first time in the 2005 annual national health service work force census. The number of community matrons employed by each primary care trust (PCT) and trust since 2005 is shown in the following table.

Anecdotal evidence suggests there are more community matrons in post than the census suggests.

Based on recent discussions with a number of strategic health authorities (SHAs) we believe that the 2006 census is an undercount, with community matrons most likely being recorded in the census within other occupational groups.

We are committed to increasing the number of community matrons and local development plans strongly suggest this is happening.

*NHS hospital and community health services: community matrons in England by SHA area and by organisation as at 30 September each specified year*

| | | Headcount |
|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* |
| England | 267 | 366 |
| *North East Strategic Health Authority area* | 27 | 32 |
| County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 2 | 0 |
| County Durham PCT | 0 | 4 |
| Darlington PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Derwentside PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Gateshead PCT | 5 | 6 |
| Hartlepool PCT | 8 | 0 |
| Middlesbrough PCT | 2 | 0 |
| North Tyneside PCT | 1 | 0 |
| South Tyneside PCT | 6 | 9 |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT | 0 | 13 |
| *North West Strategic Health Authority area* | 36 | 72 |
| Bury PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 0 | 8 |
| Central Cheshire PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Central Liverpool PCT | 16 | 0 |
| Cheshire West PCT | 3 | 0 |
| East Lancashire PCT | 0 | 12 |
| Halton and St Helens PCT | 0 | 12 |
| Liverpool PCT | 0 | 20 |
| Morecambe Bay PCT | 2 | 0 |
| North Lancashire PCT | 0 | 5 |
| Oldham PCT | 8 | 8 |
| Preston PCT | 3 | 0 |
| Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust | 1 | 0 |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 1 | 0 |
| The Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust | 0 | 1 |
| Warrington PCT | 0 | 1 |
| West Cheshire PCT | 0 | 3 |
| Wirral PCT | 0 | 2 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area* | 32 | 70 |
| Airedale PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT | 0 | 6 |
| Bradford City Teaching PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Bradford South and West PCT | 5 | 0 |
| Calderdale PCT | 0 | 10 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 0 | 2 |
| East Yorkshire PCT | 3 | 0 |
| Eastern Wakefield PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Kirklees PCT | 0 | 5 |
| Leeds PCT | 0 | 30 |
| North Bradford PCT | 2 | 0 |
| North Kirklees PCT | 3 | 0 |
| Rotherham PCT | 0 | 9 |
| Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Sheffield PCT | 0 | 8 |
| South East Sheffield PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Wakefield West PCT | 6 | 0 |
| West Hull PCT | 4 | 0 |
| Yorkshire Wolds and Coast PCT | 1 | 0 |
| *East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area* | 43 | 28 |
| Amber Valley PCT | 4 | 0 |
| Broxtowe and Hucknall PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Central Derby PCT | 5 | 0 |
| Daventry and South Northamptonshire PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Erewash PCT | 4 | 0 |
| Gedling PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Greater Derby PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust | 1 | 0 |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | 0 | 9 |
| Mansfield District PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Newark and Sherwood PCT | 4 | 0 |
| Northampton PCT | 5 | 0 |
| Nottingham City PCT | 4 | 7 |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT | 0 | 12 |
| Rushcliffe PCT | 4 | 0 |
| South Leicestershire PCT | 1 | 0 |
| West Lincolnshire PCT | 4 | 0 |
| *West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area* | 29 | 31 |
| Coventry Teaching PCT | 5 | 7 |
| Eastern Birmingham PCT | 9 | 0 |
| North Birmingham PCT | 4 | 0 |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 0 | 3 |
| Rugby PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Solihull Care Trust | 0 | 7 |
| Solihull PCT | 4 | 0 |
| South Stoke PCT | 2 | 0 |
| South Warwickshire PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Walsall Teaching PCT | 0 | 12 |
| Warwickshire PCT | 0 | 2 |
| *East of England Strategic Health Authority area* | 15 | 31 |
| Basildon PCT | 3 | 0 |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 0 | 2 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 0 | 2 |

*NHS hospital and community health services: community matrons in England by SHA area and by organisation as at 30 September each specified year*

| | | Headcount |
|---|---|---|
| | 2005 | 2006 |
| Colchester PCT | 9 | 0 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT | 0 | 3 |
| Harlow PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 0 | 7 |
| Norfolk PCT | 0 | 1 |
| North East Essex PCT | 0 | 5 |
| South East Essex PCT | 0 | 4 |
| South West Essex Teaching PCT | 0 | 5 |
| Southend on Sea PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Suffolk PCT | 0 | 2 |
| | | |
| *London Strategic Health Authority area* | 5 | 35 |
| Enfield PCT | 3 | 10 |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 0 | 1 |
| Havering PCT | 0 | 6 |
| Hounslow PCT | 0 | 3 |
| Islington PCT | 0 | 2 |
| Lambeth PCT | 0 | 6 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 0 | 3 |
| Westminster PCT | 1 | 4 |
| | | |
| *South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area* | 37 | 0 |
| East Kent Coastal PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Eastbourne Downs PCT | 3 | 0 |
| Guildford and Waverley PCT | 3 | 0 |
| Mid Sussex PCT | 3 | 0 |
| South Downs Health NHS Trust | 25 | 0 |
| Swale PCT | 2 | 0 |
| | | |
| *South Central Strategic Health Authority area* | 10 | 12 |
| Berkshire East Teaching PCT | 0 | 4 |
| Berkshire West PCT | 0 | 7 |
| Chiltern and South Bucks PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Isle Of Wight PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 2 | 1 |
| Slough PCT | 2 | 0 |
| Wokingham PCT | 2 | 0 |
| | | |
| *South West Strategic Health Authority area* | 33 | 55 |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 0 | 1 |
| Bournemouth Teaching PCT | 4 | 0 |
| Bristol North PCT | 4 | 0 |
| Bristol Teaching PCT | 0 | 26 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 0 | 13 |
| Dorset PCT | 0 | 5 |
| Mid Devon PCT | 3 | 0 |
| North Somerset PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Poole PCT | 9 | 0 |
| Somerset Coast PCT | 1 | 0 |
| Somerset PCT | 0 | 1 |
| South and East Dorset PCT | 4 | 0 |
| South Somerset PCT | 3 | 0 |
| Swindon PCT | 0 | 5 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 0 | 2 |
| West of Cornwall PCT | 4 | 0 |
| Wiltshire PCT | 0 | 2 |

*Notes:*

1. Data are presented for all NHS organisations. On 1 October 2006 PCTs were restructured and 2006 data are presented for the new organisations.

2. In 2006 a separate code was introduced for community matrons (NEH) to differentiate between modern matrons (managing staff working in the community, (coded as NCH) and community matrons who deal with patients.

3. No returns were made from the South East Coast SHA under the new code (NEH), but there were 59 returns for the old code NCH.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

## Dental Services

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists offer *(a)* only private practice treatment and *(b)* NHS treatment in each primary care trust in England. [170261]

**Ann Keen:** The National Health Service Business Services Authority Dental Services Division (NHSBSADSD) does not capture data about private dentists or their activity.

The numbers of NHS dentists at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) level as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table El of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 report". This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

This report is available in the Library at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology and frequency for reporting workforce information are being reviewed. The purpose of the review is to ensure that, following experience of the first year of the new dental contract, figures provide an appropriate measure of the workforce, given the way that the workforce reporting system is being used by PCTs. An update on the review will be provided in the "NHS Dentals Statistics for England, Quarter 2, 30 September 2007" publication, which is due to be published in February 2008.

### Dental Services: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS dentists in Bexley *(a)* admitted new adult patients to their list and *(b)* treated NHS patients between the ages of 18 and 65 years in each of the last five years; [167476]

(2) how many *(a)* 18 to 65 and *(b)* under 18 year olds were registered for NHS dental treatment in Bexley in each year since 1997. [167477]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not available in the format requested. Information on national health service dentists who admitted new patients to their list is not collected centrally.

Under the old contractual arrangements which were in place until 2006, patients had to register with an individual dentist.

The number of patients registered with an NHS dentist at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area are available in annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is available annually as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 and is broken down by children (aged 17 and under) and adults (aged 18 and over).

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new contractual arrangements, patients do not have to be registered with a dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in the 24-month period ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 is available in table C1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at PCT and SHA area and is broken down by children (aged 17 and under) and adults (aged 18 and over).

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

### Dental Services: Finance

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS dentists in England face clawbacks of funding under the April 2006 dental contracts for the financial year 2006-07 who work in dental practices established *(a)* prior to and *(b)* after April 2006; [169267]

(2) how many NHS dentists in England face clawbacks of funding under the April 2006 dental contract for the financial year 2006-07. [169268]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of individual primary care trusts to decide how such situations should be handled within the regulations governing dental contracts.

### Dental Services: Greater Manchester

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* Manchester Withington constituency have had an appointment with an NHS dentist since the introduction of the new dental contract. [168447]

**Ann Keen:** Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, information is available on the number of patients receiving national health service dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period.

The numbers of patients seen by an NHS dentist in the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at primary care trust and strategic health authority area in England, but not at constituency level.

This report is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

### Dental Services: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for orthodontic treatment on the NHS was in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [169285]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for national health service orthodontic treatment provided in primary care.

Information is available on average hospital waiting times from referral to first out-patient appointment from decision to admit to hospital admission (day case and in-patient). This information is provided, broken down by primary care trust, a copy has been placed in the Library.

### Departmental Equality

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcome was of the Commission for Racial Equality's investigation into the Department of Health's discharge of its duty to promote race equality launched in 2007. [172463]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) published a report on its investigation into the Department on 27 September 2007. The report is available on the website of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (which took over CRE's responsibilities on 1 October 2007) at:

www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Race/Formal%20investigations/department_of_health_fi.pdf.

The report outlines the CRE's findings and recommendations. Of the nine recommendations, one was that CRE should issue a compliance notice to the Department, which it did on 28 September. The Department is discussing with the Equality and Human Rights Commission the action required by the compliance notice. A copy of actions the Department is taking to fulfil the other recommendations has been placed in the Library.

## Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of each document prepared for each of his Department's citizens' juries. [164858]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not keep a central record of all of the Department's citizens' juries. However, there have been two citizens' summits of note which the Department has run. From these two events, three relevant documents will be placed in the Library.

The first event supported the "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" White Paper in 2006. From this citizen's summit, two documents will now be placed in the Library. These are "Your Health, Your Care, Your Say: Improving Community Health and Care Services, Citizen's Guide", which was the input guide to the event, and "Your Health, Your Care, Your Say: Report of Citizens' Summit, Birmingham , 29 October 2005", which is the write up of the day.

The second was on the 18 September 2007, as part of the Next Stage Review being led by Lord Darzi. A copy of the results from this event, "Our NHS, Our Future: 18 September 2007 Nationwide Consultative Event, Key findings" has been placed in the Library.

## Dermatology: Consultants

**Frank Cook:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant dermatology posts were created in each of the last five years. [168352]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows the increase in headcount of medical consultants within the dermatology specialty over the past five years.

*Hospital and Community Health Services: medical consultants within the dermatology specialty: England at 30 September each year*

| | Number (headcount) Consultant |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 392 |
| 2003 | 415 |
| 2004 | 440 |
| 2005 | 450 |
| 2006 | 454 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

## Deviance and Behaviour Disorders: Drugs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were made for children aged *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* 16 to 18 years in full time education for (i) antidepressants, (ii) stimulants and (iii) drugs for (A) attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and (B) psychoses and related disorders in each year since 1990-91; at what cost in each year to the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [172094]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information is not available on the number of prescriptions that were made to children. However, data are available on the number of items that were dispensed and the net ingredient cost (NIC) of those drugs dispensed.

Antidepressant drugs are classified under British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.3, Antidepressant Drugs.

*BNF4.3*

| | Children under 16 | | Children 16 to 18 in full-time education | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Financial year | Items | Cost (£) | Items | Cost (£) |
| 1995-96 | 67,543 | 459,884.04 | 67,986 | 935,075.22 |
| 1996-97 | 78,353 | 702,036.40 | 92,569 | 1,417,850.30 |
| 1997-98 | 86,796 | 823,456.80 | 109,862 | 1,813,982.82 |
| 1998-99 | 83,070 | 901,715.02 | 108,846 | 1,947,731.55 |
| 1999-2000 | 86,152 | 981,388.21 | 104,256 | 1,857,085.41 |
| 2000-01 | 99,299 | 1,101,610.19 | 119,645 | 1,764,943.88 |
| 2001-02 | 112,914 | 1,372,384.83 | 130,887 | 2,021,790.31 |
| 2002-03 | 119,566 | 1,525,442.38 | 144,331 | 2,173,657.42 |
| 2003-04 | 104,733 | 1,277,947.31 | 144,607 | 2,054,711.53 |
| 2004-05 | 94,905 | 1,075,388.52 | 122,246 | 1,387,279.48 |
| 2005-06 | 107,965 | 1,146,799.02 | 107,268 | 974,961.47 |
| 2006-07 | 109,535 | 1,001,661.29 | 103,023 | 699,882.64 |

*Stimulants and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)*

These drugs are classified under BNF section 4.4, Central Nervous System (CNS) stimulants and drugs used for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. It is not possible to separate out whether the drug was dispensed as a stimulant or for ADHD.

*BNF 4.4*

| | Children under 16 | | Children 16 to 18 in full time education | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Financial year | Items | Cost (£) | Items | Cost (£) |
| 1995-96 | 15,908 | 256,368.58 | 645 | 16,108.82 |
| 1996-97 | 48,264 | 796,117.35 | 2,058 | 35,066.12 |
| 1997-98 | 86,247 | 1,511,057.64 | 3,388 | 67,958.63 |
| 1998-99 | 112,294 | 2,046,189.54 | 4,596 | 111,110.67 |
| 1999-2000 | 144,894 | 2,731,785.40 | 7,698 | 170,815.54 |
| 2000-01 | 171,244 | 3,285,406.51 | 7,873 | 178,681.81 |
| 2001-02 | 200,202 | 3,954,689.84 | 9,225 | 263,480.31 |
| 2002-03 | 247,115 | 6,664,367.80 | 11,935 | 404,542.57 |
| 2003-04 | 289,009 | 9,221,611.44 | 17,218 | 657,764.46 |
| 2004-05 | 338,909 | 12,538,463.29 | 24,906 | 1,101,195.20 |
| 2005-06 | 379,334 | 15,799,142.35 | 31,694 | 1,477,481.24 |
| 2006-07 | 454,797 | 19,162,444.70 | 40,339 | 2,012,486.47 |

*Psychoses and related disorders*

These drugs are classified under BNF section 4.2, Drugs used in psychoses and related disorders.

*BNF 4.2*

| | Children under 16 | | Children 16 to 18 in full-time education | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Financial year | Items | Cost (£) | Items | Cost (£) |
| 1995-96 | 14,493 | 103,421.46 | 18,536 | 99,265.69 |
| 1996-97 | 19,466 | 169,588.96 | 25,038 | 219,395.03 |
| 1997-98 | 21,368 | 221,984.44 | 27,807 | 335,314.80 |
| 1998-99 | 22,666 | 328,614.92 | 22,484 | 410,207.72 |
| 1999-2000 | 22,494 | 413,894.14 | 18,242 | 418,898.89 |
| 2000-01 | 26,187 | 634,029.84 | 19,338 | 609,087.98 |
| 2001-02 | 27,299 | 822,343.50 | 18,332 | 712,660.70 |
| 2002-03 | 35,089 | 1,224,728.85 | 19,666 | 886,386.37 |
| 2003-04 | 38,687 | 1,332,755.23 | 23,695 | 1,048,668.01 |
| 2004-05 | 47,340 | 1,754,505.70 | 27,502 | 1,316,821.64 |
| 2005-06 | 59,834 | 2,093,995.82 | 26,002 | 1,150,404.62 |

*BNF 4.2*

| | Children under 16 | | Children 16 to 18 in full-time education | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Financial year | Items | Cost (£) | Items | Cost (£) |
| 2006-07 | 66,961 | 2,417,003.67 | 29,954 | 1,305,311.91 |

*Notes:*
1. Prescription Cost Analysis Data: Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community, i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.
2. Prescription Items: Prescriptions are written on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.
3. Net Ingredient Cost (NIC): NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.
4. Exemption Category Estimates: The exemption data are identified from the box ticked on the back of the prescription form and relies on the form being completed correctly which may not always be the case. Information for categories that are not required to pay a charge (e.g. children) is based on a one in 20 sample of all exempt prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors. The information we have is therefore an estimate and subject to sampling errors.

## Diabetes

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes in (i) Warrington, (ii) Cheshire, (iii) the North West and (iv) England in each of the last five years. [167131]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows the number of people diagnosed with diabetes in Warrington, Cheshire, the North West and England in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. These are the years for which figures are available. Figures are not available for type 1 and type 2 diabetes separately.

| | Health authority | Diabetes list size |
|---|---|---|
| *2004-05* | | |
| PCT | Central Cheshire | 9,420 |
| | Eastern Cheshire | 6,340 |
| | Cheshire West | 4,892 |
| | Ellesmere Port and Neston | 2,973 |
| | Warrington | 6,573 |
| SHA | Cheshire and Merseyside | 85,639 |
| | Cumbria and Lancashire | 70,346 |
| | Greater Manchester | 94,291 |
| England | England | 1,766,391 |
| *2005-06* | | |
| PCT | Central Cheshire | 9,982 |
| | Eastern Cheshire | 6,695 |
| | Cheshire West | 5,274 |
| | Ellesmere Port and Neston | 3,200 |
| | Warrington | 7,339 |
| SHA | Cheshire and Merseyside | 92,180 |
| | Cumbria and Lancashire | 74,534 |
| | Greater Manchester | 100,878 |
| England | England | 1,890,663 |
| *2006-07* | | |
| PCT | Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 17,437 |
| | Warrington PCT | 7,796 |
| | Western Cheshire PCT | 8,985 |
| SHA | North West Strategic Health Authority | 279,253 |
| England | England | 1,961,976 |

*Notes:*
1. Diabetes prevalence
The disease register in QOF for diabetes does not include any patient below the age of 17 and so the total disease register may be slightly lower than expected.
2. Primary care trust and strategic health authority boundaries
There is no primary care trust (PCT) known as Cheshire in the current PCT list. Information is therefore provided on the PCTs most closely aligned with this area: Central and Eastern Cheshire and Western Cheshire.
In October 2006, there was PCT restructure. For the QOF years 2004-05 and 2005-06, information is provided on the old PCTs that made up the new ones when the restructure occurred. Central Cheshire and Eastern Cheshire became Central and Eastern Cheshire, and Cheshire West and Ellesmere Port and Neston became Western Cheshire.
In July 2006, Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) were restructured. Information is provided for 2004-05 and 2005-06 on the old SHAs that became the new North West SHA. Cheshire and Merseyside, Cumbria and Lancashire and Greater Manchester SHAs became the North West SHA.
3. Coverage of QOF
Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF. Not all practices participate in QOF and some participate in only some parts (especially primary medical services practices who are paid under different arrangements for providing services which are part of QOF for general medical services practices).
*Source:*
Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) data published by the Information Centre for health and social Care. 2004-05 is the first year of data from this source.

## Doctors: Career Structure

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applicants to the inter-deanery job transfer scheme there have been to date; and how many applications have been successful. [171693]

**Ann Keen:** A total of 593 applications was received from doctors wishing to transfer. There were 61 applicants identified as matches for possible transfers. Three transfers took place involving five doctors and two general practitioners.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 996W, on doctors: training, how many registrar group doctors he expects will apply for the 8,000 advertised training places, broken down into *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* other EEA nationals and *(c)* non-EEA nationals. [169857]

**Ann Keen:** Our working assumption is that the competition ratio for 2008 will be up to 3:1, higher than this year, and that half of all applicants will be from outside the European economic area.

We are working with Deaneries to ensure there are appropriate processes in place to handle large numbers of applications.

We would encourage applicants to consider carefully which parts of the country they apply to and for which specialties, as the competition ratios for some areas and some specialties are considerably higher than others.

### Doctors: Housing

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which legislation *(a)* established and *(b)* removed the statutory responsibility of NHS trusts to provide accommodation for junior doctors. [170573]

**Ann Keen:** The Medical Act 1983 established the requirement for a doctor with provisional registration to be resident in the hospital or institution where he/she is employed and that this requirement is in the terms of his/her employment (section 11(3)). Further provisions were made by the Medical Act 1983 Regulations 2005.

Sections 10-13 of the Medical Act 1983 were repealed by the Medical Act 1983 (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2006.

### English Language

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* NHS trusts spent on English language classes for staff in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [169557]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally.

All national health service trusts should ensure that they have rigorous and effective recruitment processes in place to ensure that those they employ have the necessary communication and language skills.

### General Practitioners: Training

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners in each *(a)* Government region and *(b)* primary care trust area were invited by their primary care trust to attend courses to update their or their practice's skills in the last 18 months; and if he will make a statement. [165197]

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department collects on the employment of people who have studied *(a)* midwifery and *(b)* other healthcare-related subjects post-qualification. [166749]

**Ann Keen:** These data are not collected centrally.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

Access to training is affected by a number of factors such as the availability of funding, whether staff can be released, the availability of appropriate training interventions, mentors and assessors. It would not be practical for the centre to be prescriptive on this.

### Health Services: Information Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health representatives of which private sector providers of healthcare the Information Centre for Health and Social Care has included on its stakeholder and reference groups, as stated on the Our Priorities for 2007-08 section of its website; what progress the Information Centre has made in extending *(a)* support and *(b)* guidance to private sector providers; and what steps the Information Centre has taken in support of its aim to align information collected across the NHS and private sectors. [170500]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Information Centre for health and social care (IC) works with the Independent Healthcare Advisory Services and NHS Partners Network, , which represent a large number of independent sector providers. The IC also includes the following independent sector providers on its Reference Group for discussing data collection: Spire Healthcare, Nuffield Hospitals, Horder Centre, Care UK, Capio, General Healthcare Group/Netcare UK, Benenden Hospital and BMI Healthcare.

The IC supports the independent sector through its website, which includes guidance on information gathering, data, publications, and training. The IC publicises this material through its various stakeholder groups.

The IC has established a Working Group with the independent sector to improve the alignment of information across the national health service and independent sectors. The group is focusing particularly on alignment of information on mental health, healthcare associated infections, serious untoward incidents and patient experience.

### Heart Diseases

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department gives general practitioners and accident and emergency departments on recognising the different symptoms of heart attacks demonstrated by men and women. [166598]

**Ann Keen:** As women continue to live longer than men, more of them are presenting with heart disease. It is important that health services recognise this, and ensure that men and women alike receive treatment in line with best practice.

The National Service Framework (NSF) for Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), published in 2000, sets out national standards for treatment of CHD. The NSF includes information about the way in which rates of CHD vary according to social circumstances, gender and ethnicity. One of the objectives in publishing the NSF was to bring these variations to the attention of the health service in order to reduce undesirable variations and inconsistencies in service delivery and access, and to improve the overall quality of care for CHD.

### Heart Disease: Transplant Surgery

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations have been received by *(a)* the National Commissioning Group and *(b)* other competent bodies on assessing the potential use of beating heart transplant technology in transplant units; what the outcomes have been of assessments undertaken by those bodies; what the reasons are for decisions that may have been reached; and if he will make a statement. [168314]

**Ann Keen:** The National Commissioning Group has received no representation on assessing the potential use of beating heart technology but is aware that both Papworth and Harefield hospitals participated in a European study of the organ care system; the results of which have not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response he has made to the report by the Healthcare Commission on Intervention at Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and its recommendations on reducing ischaemic time; whether he has assessed the merits of using beating heart transplant technology in the UK's transplant units; and if he will make a statement. [168368]

**Ann Keen:** Heart transplantation operations are inherently high risk and services need to be actively monitored and practice reviewed to assure the quality and the safety of patients. Papworth hospital has resumed heart transplantation after the Healthcare Commission said that quality of care at the hospital was good and the Trust agreed to implement a number of recommendations to improve some aspects of practice in line with the best standards. We are aware that Papworth hospital has participated in a European study looking at the merits of using beating heart technology but that results have not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of research on the correlation between ischaemia time and 30 day mortality rates after heart transplantation; and if he will make a statement; [168371]

(2) whether he has reviewed all commercially-available medical technologies and assessed their ability to reduce ischaemic injury to donor organs for use in organ transplantation; and if he will make a statement; [168372]

(3) what estimate he has made of the 30 day survival rate for heart transplant patients who received a beating heart transplant using the organ care system at Papworth and Harefield hospitals; and if he will make a statement; [168373]

(4) if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on survival rates in heart transplantation of the use of the organ care system/beating heart transplant technology in all the UK's transplant units; and if he will make a statement; [168374]

(5) if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on the number of donor organs in heart transplantation of the use of the organ care system/beating heart transplant technology in all the UK's transplant units; and if he will make a statement. [168375]

**Ann Keen:** A European study of the use of the organ care system has been carried out in 20 patients including seven at Papworth hospital and one at Harefield hospital. We understand that the study was not a randomised controlled trial and had no comparison group. The results were presented at 2007 meeting of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation but have yet to be published in a peer-reviewed journal. This presentation stated that there were no deaths within 30 days of transplantation in the 20 patients in the study. We have not made an assessment of the merits of using the organ care system in United Kingdom transplant units but understand that the Food and Drug Administration has given approval of a research study at five named centres in the United States of America to evaluate the safety and performance of the organ care system in heart transplantation. This study will start in 2008 and may provide relevant evidence for the future. The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation publishes figures for survival at one year following heart transplant according to different ischaemic times.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have discussed the clinical merits of beating heart transplant technology with the Clinical Director of Transplant Services at Papworth Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [168376]

**Ann Keen:** We have not discussed the clinical merits of beating heart transplant technology with the clinical director of transplant services at Papworth hospital.

## Hillingdon Primary Care Trust: Infectious Diseases

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b) clostridium difficile* were recorded in the Hillingdon Primary Care Trust in each year since 1997. [169683]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested. However, the information is collected at trust level. The following table shows information on how many cases of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections and *Clostridium difficile* infection from the mandatory surveillance scheme run by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Data are only available from 2001.

| *April to March each year* | *Number of (MRSA) bloodstream infection reports at the Hillingdon hospital NHS trust* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 33 |
| 2002-03 | 36 |
| 2003-04 | 24 |
| 2004-05 | 30 |
| 2005-06 | 24 |
| 2006-07 | 38 |

| | *Number of C. difficile reports for patients aged 65 years and over at the Hillingdon hospital NHS Trust* |
|---|---|
| January-December 2004 | 219 |
| January-December 2005 | 140 |
| January-December 2006 | 196 |
| January-June 2007 (6 months only) | 122 |

*Source:*
Health Protection Agency—provisional data

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which the 10 most common types of hospital infection were in the last year for which figures are available; and what the incidence was in each in 1997. [170656]

**Ann Keen:** The requested information is not available and the best available data are from the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) voluntary reporting system.

The following table gives data collected from the voluntary reporting system for 1997 and 2006 for the nine most common causes of bacteraemia[1] (bacterial bloodstream infections) and for *Clostridium difficile*, which is associated with diarrhoea and not the blood stream.

[1] These organisms are associated with infections that are transmitted mainly or partly within hospitals.

| *Organism* | *1997* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|
| Escherichia coli | 10179 | 18043 |
| Coagulase negative staphylococci | 4351 | 14184 |
| Staphylococcus aureus | 8974 | 13616 |
| MRSA (Percentage) | 29 | 38 |
| Enterococcus spp | 2396 | 7070 |
| Klebsiella spp | 2378 | 5162 |
| Streptococcus pneumoniae | 5256 | 4539 |
| Pseudomonas spp | 1721 | 3454 |
| Enterobacter spp | 1425 | 2410 |
| Proteus spp | 1413 | 1839 |
| Clostridium difficile | 14541 | 51089 |

*Note:*
Data source HPA laboratory reports (voluntary reporting system).

The increase in bacteraemias is partly due to better reporting, surveillance and testing and may also reflect a changing hospital population, with more patients who are vulnerable to infection through conditions which compromise their immune systems being treated.

### Hospitals: Police

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospitals have special arrangements with local police forces to allow *(a)* permanent and *(b)* semi-permanent stationing of police officers on their grounds to deter criminal activity; [170607]

(2) how many criminal convictions following assaults on ambulance drivers there were in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [170608]

(3) how many attacks there were on ambulance drivers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [170609]

(4) how many criminal convictions there were following assaults on hospital staff in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [170610]

(5) how many attacks there were on hospital staff in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [170611]

**Ann Keen:** In 2003 the national health service security management service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against national health service staff.

The NHS SMS has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Association of Chief Police Officers. This encourages NHS trusts to agree a protocol with their local police to address how they can work together to deter criminal activity. Special arrangements between NHS trusts and the police are a matter for local agreement and information is not collated centrally on these agreements.

Since 2004-05, the NHS SMS has collected statistics on the number of physical assaults against NHS staff and the number of criminal sanctions against individuals who have assaulted NHS staff. Information on assaults and sanctions in relation to ambulance and hospital staff in the year 2006-07 is provided in the following table.

| *NHS sector* | *Number of reported assaults* | *Number of criminal sanctions*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Acute and Foundation trusts | 9,685 | 419 |
| Ambulance workers | 1,006 | 142 |

[1] Figures include all criminal sanctions:
Cautions and conditional cautions
Conditional discharges
Community rehabilitation or punishment orders
Imprisonment (including suspended sentences)
Fines

### Incontinence

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Commercial Directorate's latest consultation on reimbursement for stoma and incontinence products and services under Part IX of the Drug Tariff omits reference to four of the seven objectives originally set for the review covering fair prices for the NHS and reasonable returns for suppliers, facilitating the introduction of innovative solutions, maintaining local choice in the provision of services and keeping administration to the necessary minimum; and how performance against all the review's objectives will be measured. [170068]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The review and related consultation has been ongoing since October 2005 and none of the original list of objectives is omitted.

In the current consultation document, the list of objectives is streamlined for simplicity. The Department has subsequently reiterated all of the objectives of the review contained in Clarification Document published on 4 October, which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_078135

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Following Cabinet Office guidelines the Department will be carrying out a review three years post-implementation to assess whether the objects of any changes are achieving their objectives.

### Medical Treatments: Waiting Lists

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets the Government sets for waiting times for cancer patients requiring diagnostic endoscopies; and what the average waiting time was for cancer patients awaiting diagnostic endoscopies by the Royal Cornwall Trust in the most recent period for which figures are available. [169400]

**Ann Keen:** There are no specific waiting time targets for urgent endoscopies for cancer patients and endoscopy waiting times are not collected centrally. However, where a patient needs an urgent endoscopy following urgent referral by their general practitioner for suspected cancer, the whole patient pathway from referral to commencing first cancer treatment should not exceed 62 days.

Outside the cancer pathway, by 2008, there will be a maximum 18-week pathway from referral to treatment for all patients. This will include time spent waiting for diagnostic tests.

### Mental Health Services: Prisons

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcome was of the most recent mental health needs assessment in each prison establishment. [171955]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In 2001, the document "Changing the Outlook: A Strategy for Developing and Modernising Mental Health Services in Prisons" (2001) asked prisons to work with their local national health service partners to review the mental health needs assessments they made during 2001-01 and to develop action plans to fill any gaps in provision that may have been identified.

This process informed the development of prison mental health services, and the introduction of prison mental health in-reach teams, during the process of transferring responsibility for prison health services from HM Prison Service to the NHS.

Since 2006, all prison health services, including prison mental health services, have been fully commissioned by NHS primary care trusts (PCTs). Local health needs assessments for prison populations are now therefore a matter for PCTs.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the Government on mental health services in prison in each year since 1997. [171977]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In England the total amount allocated specifically to primary care trusts for national health service mental health services in prisons was £1,719,000 in 2001-02; £3,685,000 in 2002-03; £9,400,000 in 2003-04; and £20,000,000 for each year since 2005-06.

The information requested is not available before 2001.

### Mental Health: Employment

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 November 2007, on mental health and employment: meeting the challenge, when he expects to establish a mental health forum. [169958]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I have been asked to reply.

On 27 November we announced our intention to establish a mental health forum to bring together all those involved in the delivery of Pathways to Work support, in order to share evidence and experiences in relation to support for people with mental health conditions. When the rollout of Pathways to Work is completed, we will bring forward proposals for this forum.

### Mentally Ill: Drugs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were prescribed drugs for *(a)* depression, *(b)* behaviour control/management and *(c)* mental health problems in each year since 1980-81; at what total cost in each year; and if he will make a statement. [172093]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Not all prescriptions for drugs which are licensed for treating mental illness will have been prescribed for a mental illness. Some drugs, which are indicated for treating mental illness, are also prescribed for other illnesses such as narcolepsy and obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome. Some drugs used to treat depression are also used for other purposes.

Information on the total number of patients receiving prescriptions for medicines licensed for treating depression, behaviour control and other mental health problems from the national health service in England is not collected centrally.

Data are available on the total number of prescriptions dispensed in primary care for medicines licensed for treating these conditions, in each financial year from 1991-92 to 2006-07, and is shown in table 1. Prescriptions for behaviour control or management have been identified as those medicines which are indicated as central nervous system stimulants and drugs which are licensed for treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Data on the number of prescriptions dispensed prior to 1991 are not reliable and have not been included in the table.

*Table 1: Total number of prescriptions dispensed in primary care settings by the NHS in England for medicines which are licensed for treating (a) depression, (b) behaviour control or management and (c) other mental health problems between 1991-92 and 2006-07—data are for all ages, male and female combined*

*Thousand*

| *Financial year* | *All antidepressant drugs* | *All central nervous system stimulants and drugs used for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder* | *All drugs used in psychoses and related disorders* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 9,167.3 | 69.9 | 3,605.4 |
| 1992-93 | 10,155.9 | 78.3 | 3,843.9 |
| 1993-94 | 10,999.3 | 89.6 | 4,095.7 |
| 1994-95 | 12,171.9 | 100.7 | 4,345.9 |
| 1995-96 | 13,617.7 | 120.0 | 4,615.6 |
| 1996-97 | 15,325.2 | 166.7 | 4,859.4 |
| 1997-98 | 17,285.1 | 200.4 | 5,164.0 |
| 1998-99 | 18,843.8 | 231.8 | 5,463.2 |
| 1999-2000 | 20,560.6 | 260.8 | 5,677.9 |
| 2000-01 | 22,633.7 | 272.0 | 5,857.1 |
| 2001-02 | 24,787.1 | 295.8 | 5,679.7 |
| 2002-03 | 26,675.4 | 353.1 | 6,068.9 |
| 2003-04 | 28,098.9 | 414.1 | 6,486.0 |
| 2004-05 | 28,913.4 | 470.5 | 6,600.1 |
| 2005-06 | 29,878.5 | 536.8 | 6,974.3 |
| 2006-07 | 31,704.6 | 630.8 | 7,367.1 |

*Source:*
Prescription Cost Analysis, NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

An indication of the total annual cost of these drugs can be obtained from data on their total net ingredient cost for each year. Data for 1980 to 1990 are shown in table 2 and data for 1991-92 to 2006-07 are shown in table 3. Data up to December 1990 were collected on a calendar year basis and data since 1991 have been collected on a financial year basis.

*Table 2: Total net ingredient cost of prescriptions dispensed in primary care settings by the NHS in England for medicines which are licensed for treating (a) depression, (b) behaviour control or management and (c) other mental health problems 1980-90—data are for all ages, male and female combined*

*£000*

| | *All antidepressant drugs* | *All drugs used in psychoses and related disorders* | *All central nervous system stimulants and drugs used for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1980 | 18,513.2 | 4,897.9 | 79.1 |
| 1981 | 21,517.2 | 5,196.3 | 93.3 |
| 1982 | 24,087.7 | 6,242.0 | 123.3 |
| 1983 | 25,294.9 | 6,958.8 | 94.4 |
| 1984 | 25,373.9 | 7,407.3 | 80.4 |
| 1985 | 25,981.7 | 8,371.8 | 95.8 |
| 1986 | 27,334.8 | 8,450.7 | 86.5 |
| 1987 | 30,084.4 | 9,406.0 | 76.9 |
| 1988 | 31,992.7 | 10,640.0 | 60.5 |
| 1989 | 35,358.7 | 12,030.0 | 57.0 |
| 1990 | 40,867.9 | 12,835.2 | 66.7 |

*Source:*
Prescription Cost Analysis, NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

*Table 3: Total net ingredient cost of prescriptions dispensed in primary care settings by the NHS in England for medicines which are licensed for treating (a) depression, (b) behaviour control or management and (c) other mental health problems 1991-92 to 2006-07—data are for all ages, male and female combined*

*£000*

| *Financial year* | *All antidepressant drugs* | *All drugs used in psychoses and related disorders* | *All central nervous system stimulants and drugs used for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 59,473.7 | 15,451.3 | 64.9 |
| 1992-93 | 88,427.2 | 16,870.0 | 124.4 |
| 1993-94 | 101,303.8 | 19,300.5 | 237.7 |
| 1994-95 | 123,959.8 | 22,384.8 | 326.1 |
| 1995-96 | 156,957.5 | 26,638.6 | 694.8 |
| 1996-97 | 201,867.6 | 32,946.5 | 1,345.1 |
| 1997-98 | 250,528.6 | 46,734.9 | 2,223.5 |
| 1998-99 | 287,968.7 | 65,508.7 | 3,373.4 |
| 1999-2000 | 322,485.3 | 86,077.5 | 4,487.2 |
| 2000-01 | 309,081.2 | 106,785.0 | 5,404.8 |
| 2001-02 | 353,078.7 | 140,698.1 | 6,641.7 |
| 2002-03 | 385,655.9 | 173,590.2 | 10,440.5 |
| 2003-04 | 398,132.2 | 205,563.6 | 14,773.1 |
| 2004-05 | 393,588.2 | 218,429.7 | 19,837.4 |
| 2005-06 | 322,035.5 | 228,695.2 | 25,691.5 |
| 2006-07 | 285,623.6 | 251,855.6 | 30,387.9 |

*Notes:*
1. Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority. It is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England.
2. The data include prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, but dispensed in England. The data apply to primary care settings and exclude drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.
3. The net ingredient cost is the basic cost of a drug. They do not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.
4. The data up to 1990 are not consistent with data from 1991 onwards. Figures for 1980-90 are based on fees, and on a sample of one in 200 prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors only. Figures for 1991 onwards are based on items and cover all prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors dispensing doctors and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered.
*Source:*
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA), NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## NHS

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to break up the commercial directorate of the NHS and create regional centres to carry out its work; and if he will make a statement. [173415]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Commercial Directorate will continue to play a major role in providing commercial expertise to the Department and in helping build commercial capability across the national health service. It will exercise its role in partnership with strategic health authorities and other NHS organisations.

## NHS: British Nationality

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any jobs within the NHS are reserved for British citizens; and if he will make a statement. [170973]

**Ann Keen:** When recruiting, national health service employers will follow employment laws, the immigration rules and European Community directives and should be mindful of any guidance on employment published by the Department and its agencies. These documents will include provisions on the consideration and employment of applicants in relation to their nationality, ethnicity, race and immigration status.

### NHS: Fees and Charges

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of road calming tolls and charges in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [170543]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on costs relating to road calming tolls incurred by the national health service through non-emergency ambulance services and the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme is not collected centrally. It would be for the NHS locally to assume and manage responsibility for paying any costs relating to this issue.

### NHS: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the estimated out-turn for NHS resource spending in 2007-08 on page 176 of HM Treasury's 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review is almost £1 billion higher than the baseline for resource spending that the NHS has been set for 2007-08 on page 207 of the document. [170189]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The difference in figures is due to timing. The higher value of £87.6 billion reported in table B13 (page 176) of HM Treasury's pre-Budget report is consistent with the 2007-08 plan revenue resource expenditure reported in the "Department of Health Department Report 2007" (Figure Al).

The baseline figure of £86.848 billion for 2007-08 (on page 207) used in the Spending Review (SR) is the earlier figure modified by latest forecast technical underspends on non-cash and a transfer from the national health service departmental expenditure limit to NHS annually managed expenditure of funding for impairments.

The approach used by the Department for establishing SR baselines is consistent with that used by all other Departments.

### NHS: Illegal Immigrants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of illegal immigrants *(a)* working in the NHS and *(b)* who have worked in the NHS in each of the last five years as (i) NHS personnel and (ii) contractors. [170564]

**Ann Keen:** It is the responsibility of employers (national health service and otherwise) to ensure that their employees are eligible to work in the United Kingdom.

### NHS: Management

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many managers were employed in the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many there were in 1997. [170596]

**Ann Keen:** The latest published annual national health service workforce census showed there were 36,751 managers and senior managers employed in the NHS in England in 2006 compared with 22,173 in 1997.

Managers make up less than 3 per cent. of the NHS workforce. The number of managers and senior managers fell by 7.2 per cent. from 2005 to 2006.

### NHS: Pensions

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent estimated pensions liability is of the NHS; what estimate was made of liability in May 1997; and what estimate he has made of the projected future change in the liability. [170620]

**Ann Keen:** The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has valued the total future liabilities of the NHS Pension Scheme (England and Wales) as at 31 March 2007 to be £218 billion. The Government Actuary's Department has valued the liabilities for the NHS Pension Schemes for the United Kingdom as at 31 March 2006 to be £189 billion.

Figures produced by the GAD for the Inland Revenue Annual Statistical Digest, for the year ending April 1998, show the UK NHS Pension Scheme liability was £79 billion. However, the actuarial assumptions underlying these figures and those of the 2006 valuation are not directly comparable and have been produced for different purposes.

GAD are in the process of preparing a detailed actuarial valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2004 which will be published later this year and will include analysis of the factors leading to any change in valuation.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS pensions in each of the last 12 months. [170758]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested for England and Wales is given in the following table.

| *Month of payment* | *Benefit payments (£)* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| October | 342,215,985 |
| November | 351,768,181 |
| December | 372,243,249 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 333,913,430 |
| February | 342,993,413 |
| March | 395,647,395 |
| April | 416,444,982 |
| May | 400,168,271 |
| June | 413,896,856 |
| July | 388,429,121 |
| August | 433,947,880 |
| September | 353,219,060 |
| Total | 4,544,887,823 |

*Source:*
NHS Pensions.

Over the same period, total employer and employee contributions received were £6,720,182,642.

## NHS: Public Appointments

**Mr. McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name, *(b)* employment background, *(c)* ethnicity, *(d)* gender and *(e)* political affiliation, if any, is of each person appointed to the boards of (i) NHS acute trusts, (ii) primary care trusts and (iii) mental health trusts in North West of England since 2001. [169211]

**Ann Keen:** The appointment of non-executive members to the boards of national health service acute trusts, primary care trusts and mental health trusts has, since 2001, been delegated by the Secretary of State to the Appointments Commission. The Commission has been asked to respond to my right hon. Friend.

The appointment of executive members to the boards of these bodies are made locally by each NHS organisation as an employer in their own right. The information requested is, therefore, not held centrally for executive appointments to NHS boards.

## Nurses: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practice nurses there were in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [167475]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is only available by primary care trust (PCT) area.

The latest figures available for the number of practice nurses in Bexley Care Trust are in the following table.

The area mentioned came under Bexley and Greenwich Health Authority (HA) in 1997, so the figures for Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust have been included in the 2006 data for comparability purposes.

*GP practice nurses for selected areas, as at 1997 and 2006*

| | | Number (headcount) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1997* | *2006* |
| QAA | Bexley and Greenwich HA | 136 | — |
| TAK | Bexley Care Trust | — | 100 |
| 5A8 | Greenwich Teaching PCT | — | 82 |

'—' Denotes data not available

*Notes:*

1. Data as at 1 October 1997 and 30 September 2006
2. Data presented for organisations in existence in the specified years

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

## Nurses: Foreign Workers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 10 nationalities supplied the greatest number of foreign national nurses in the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available. [170658]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council does not keep records of the nationality of registered nurses or midwives but does record the country of qualification of new registrants. The latest information is available in the document "Nursing and Midwifery Council, Statistical analysis of the register, 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006", which has been placed in the Library. Registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council is not a guarantee of employment in the national health service and newly registered nurses and midwives may not be in the United Kingdom or working in the NHS.

## Nurses: Manpower

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practice nurses there were in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [169691]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested can be found in the following table, which shows the number of general practitioner Practice Nurses for England, Hillingdon Health Authority and Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (of which Uxbridge is a part) since 1997-2006 (which is the latest data available).

| | Number (headcount) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1998*[1] | *1999*[1] | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| England | 18,389 | 18,894 | 19,495 | 19,200 | 19,846 | 20,983 | 21,667 | 22,144 | 22,904 | 23,797 |
| London | 2,564 | 2,832 | 2,780 | 2,827 | 2,741 | 2,891 | 2,821 | 2,906 | 2,862 | 2,898 |
| Hillingdon HA | 87 | 97 | 95 | 97 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Hillingdon PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 98 | 93 | 99 | 99 | 96 | 93 |

n/a = not available

[1] Headcount Practice Nurse figures are estimated for these years.

Data presented for Organisations in existence in the specified years.

Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-06.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

## Nurses: Pay

**Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the figure of £40 per visit proposed by his Department as the level of remuneration for employers of specialist nurses or stoma nurses was reached. [167471]

**Ann Keen:** The formula used for calculating the fee to cover the cost of conducting a home visit by a specialist nurse is shown on page 14 of "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care Revised Proposals. Annex A: Proposals regarding Service Provision and Remuneration", which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_078135

Copies have also been placed in the Library.

| *Fee components* | *Calculated value* | *Underlying assumptions* | *Source* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Annual number of nurse visits conducted | (240 x 8) / 1.5 = 1,280 | 1.5 hours (including travelling time) spent per visit | Based on industry research |
| | | Eight working hours per day | Based on industry norm |
| | | 240 working days per year | Based on industry norm |
| Cost per specialist nurse home visit | Cost per nurse visit = £48,000 / 1,280 = £38 | Gross annual salary of nurse conducting home visit at £48,000 | Based on data for Grade 8A nurse from the Royal College of Nursing |
| | | 1,280 nurse visits conducted by a nurse per year | Based on aforementioned calculation* |

While the calculated value amounts to £38 per nurse visit, the fee level proposed in this consultation is £40 per nurse visit.

Note that it is also proposed that the number of these visits that a dispensing contractor may declare in any financial year (April to March) should be limited to l/70th of the part IXA (catheter), part IXB (incontinence-related) and part IXC (stoma) prescription items dispensed in that year.

## Nutrition: Training

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations are developing the online training session on nutritional care and assistance with eating referred to on page 4 of his Department's document, Improving Nutritional Care; how the training session will be made available to *(a)* NHS and *(b)* social care staff; whether he intends to make the training session available to those health professionals who work outside the NHS and social care services; what topics he intends the online training session to cover; what the cost to the public purse will be of its development; and if he will make a statement. [170067]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The online training session on nutritional care referred to in "Improving Nutritional Care—A joint Action Plan from the Department of Health and Nutrition Summit stakeholders" is being designed and provided by the National Health Service Core Learning Unit. The NHS Core Learning Unit is currently developing the content of the course and it will be made available in May 2008. Topics for the course are being decided by an expert reference group and it is expected to cover provision of support to service users during mealtimes. The course will be free to all NHS staff as an online e-learning module and will be made available to all social care staff and also those working outside the NHS and social care system at a negotiated price. The cost of establishing the course is contained within the existing budget of the NHS Core Learning Unit as part of their programme of work for 2007-08.

## Oral Cancer: Screening

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to introduce screening for mouth cancer. [169121]

**Ann Keen:** The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, it assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria.

The current position of the NSC is that screening for mouth cancer should not be offered.

## Ovarian Cancer

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the levels of awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer; [169020]

(2) what steps he is taking to raise levels of awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer through the Cancer Reform Strategy. [169021]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy, published on 3 December, announced the National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative, which will include collaborative work between the Department of Health, health professionals, patient groups and the voluntary sector to develop standardised messages to be used in information resources and campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the risk factors and signs and symptoms of cancer, including ovarian cancer. The strategy also explained that Cancer Research UK is developing a modular assessment tool to assess levels of awareness of cancer risk factors and symptoms.

## Paramedical Staff: Private Sector

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on registering private training programmes for non-NHS paramedics; and if he will make a statement. [170546]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Health Professions Council has the responsibility for regulating the paramedic profession and sets standards for the education and training of paramedics. These standards are the same for all education providers and programmes—public and private.

## Patients: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1884W, on patients: nutrition, how many bed days for finished episodes there were where the *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis was (i) malnutrition and (ii) nutritional anaemias in each year since 1997-98. [164606]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is in the following table.

*Count of bed days in the year for finished episodes where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of nutritional anaemias[1] (D50-D53), national health service hospitals, England, 2005-06 to 1997-98*

| | Bed days during the year |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 836,984 |
| 2004-05 | 802,632 |
| 2003-04 | 779,913 |
| 2002-03 | 752,241 |
| 2001-02 | 660,658 |
| 2000-01 | 632,467 |
| 1999-2000 | 613,567 |
| 1998-99 | 602,670 |
| 1997-98 | 588,023 |

[1] Nutritional anaemias

*Notes:*

D50 Iron deficiency anaemias

D51 Vitamin B12 deficiency anaemias

D52 Folate deficiency anaemias

D53 Other nutritional anaemias

## Prescriptions: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the dispensing doctors in Hampshire, broken down by *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* primary care trust for each of the last five years. [170319]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested can be found in the following table. Data are only collected at primary care trust (PCT) level.

*Summary of dispensing doctors in Hampshire*

| | *Financial years* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *PCT* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| All specified organisations | 151 | 156 | 165 | 166 | 147 |
| Blackwater Valley[1] | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| East Hampshire[1] | 23 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 0 |
| Eastleigh and Test Valley South[1] | 19 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 0 |
| Fareham and Gosport[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mid Hampshire[1] | 64 | 63 | 68 | 69 | 0 |
| New Forest[1] | 12 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 0 |
| North Hampshire[1] | 31 | 33 | 37 | 37 | 0 |
| Hampshire[2] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 166 | 147 |

[1] These PCTs ceased operating on 30 September 2006

[2] Hampshire PCT starting operating on 1 October 2006

*Note:*

Data as at 1 April in each period

*Source:*

NHS Business Service Authority—Prescription Pricing Division

## Pressure Sores

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department last commissioned studies into the prevalence of pressure sores in *(a)* hospital settings, *(b)* care homes and *(c)* the community; [172553]

(2) how many critical incident reports in which pressure sores have been cited as a factor were produced in each of the last three years, broken down by NHS trust; [172555]

(3) what guidance his Department provides to NHS trusts on collecting and recording data on bed sores. [172562]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department does not provide guidance to the NHS on collecting and recording data on bed sores.

The Department has not commissioned studies on the prevalence of pressure sores in hospital, care homes, or the community.

Information on the number of critical incident reports, in which pressure sores were cited as a factor, is not available centrally.

## Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the numbers of clinical nurses specialising in prostate cancer. [168785]

**Ann Keen:** Workforce planning is a matter for local determination. It is for local workforce planners to determine the prostate cancer nurse needs of their local populations with appropriate support from the Workforce Review Team, National Workforce Projects and NHS Employers.

## Queen's Hospital Romford: Abuse

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of abuse of hospital staff have been recorded at Queen's Hospital, Romford, since its establishment. [167438]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of reported physical assaults on national health service staff in England 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 at Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust.

*Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust*

| | *Physical assaults* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 143 |
| 2005-06 | 174 |
| 2006-07 | 137 |

*Source:*

National Health Service Security Management Service (NHS SMS)

A table showing the estimated number of reported violent incidents collected by the Department of Health for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 for each hospital trust in England is contained in the Survey of Reported Violent or Abusive Incidents, Accidents Involving Staff and Sickness Absence in NHS Trusts and Health Authorities, in England, which has been placed in the Library.

## Radiotherapy: Finance

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanism the additional £200 million allocated for increased radiotherapy capacity under the new NHS Cancer Reform Strategy will be allocated to individual *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* hospitals. [171904]

**Ann Keen:** £200 million is the annual cost to the national health service of radiotherapy services. To increase capacity and deliver world class treatment to cancer patients in England we will invest £130 million in new equipment and staff over the next three years.

The revenue component of the £130 million will be included in primary care trust (PCT) allocations, with PCTs agreeing funding to hospitals in line with locally agreed contracts.

The capital funding for improvements to cancer services is included within the total capital funding available to the NHS. The detail of how this investment will be delivered will be agreed as part of the NHS capital planning process.

## Seasonal Affective Disorder

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the potential effect on the incidence of seasonally affected depression of introducing British Summer Time in winter and Double British Summer Time in summer. [172285]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Seasonal affective disorder is thought to be related to the overall number of daylight hours a person experiences through the year. The introduction of British Summer Time alone would thus have no overall effect on its incidence.

## Spectacles: Voucher Schemes

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of introducing NHS vouchers to meet the cost of sports glasses for those under 19 years of age and in full-time education. [166740]

**Ann Keen:** National health service optical vouchers are available to children under 16 and children aged 16, 17 and 18 in full-time education. Where optical vouchers have been issued following the testing of sight they are used towards the cost of a powered optical appliance which meets the needs identified in the sight test. This is intended to be for optical appliances which meet the everyday needs of the patient. Primary care trusts have the discretion to approve the issue of a second NHS optical voucher although this would only be in exceptional circumstances and based on clinical need. There are no plans to alter the current voucher arrangements.

## Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust: Manpower

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health workers were employed in Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust in each of the last five years. [166151]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested can be found in the following table.

*National health service hospital and community health services: NHS staff in the Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year*

*Headcount*

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total staff | 2,246 | 2,373 | 2,462 | 2,446 | 2,302 |
| Medical and dental staff | 76 | 82 | 85 | 84 | 85 |
| Non-medical staff total | 2,170 | 2,291 | 2,377 | 2,362 | 2,217 |
| Professionally qualified clinical staff | 765 | 776 | 804 | 794 | 766 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 617 | 614 | 642 | 632 | 614 |
| Qualified scientific, therapeutic (ST) and technical staff (T) | 148 | 162 | 162 | 162 | 152 |
| Qualified allied health professions | 96 | 109 | 106 | 103 | 95 |
| Other qualified ST and T staff | 52 | 53 | 56 | 59 | 57 |
| Support to clinical staff | 798 | 905 | 976 | 974 | 907 |
| Support to doctors and nursing staff | 774 | 879 | 951 | 952 | 881 |
| Support to ST and T staff | 24 | 26 | 25 | 22 | 26 |
| NHS infrastructure support | 607 | 610 | 597 | 594 | 544 |
| Central functions | 182 | 183 | 178 | 215 | 201 |
| Hotel, property and estates | 326 | 319 | 314 | 291 | 272 |
| Managers and senior managers | 99 | 108 | 105 | 88 | 71 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

## Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust: Strokes

**David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the delivery of the national service framework on stroke services in the Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust area; and if he will make a statement. [165191]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not currently have a national service framework (NSF) on stroke services. Therefore, it is not possible to comment on the effectiveness of the delivery of such a document in the Telford and Wrekin primary care trust area.

However, the Department recently carried out a consultation exercise on a stroke strategy document and this document was launched on 5 December. In addition, the NSF for long-term conditions was published in 2004 and this provides general guidelines for a range of conditions, including stroke. Prior to this the NSF for Older People, published in 2001, included a chapter on stroke services.

### Transplant Surgery

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of using the organ care system on *(a)* the level of ischaemic injury to donor organs, *(b)* the outcomes after organ transplant procedure and *(c)* the level of utilisation of existing donor organs; and if he will make a statement. [168369]

**Ann Keen:** I have not made an assessment of the effect of using the organ care system in UK transplant units but understand that the Food and Drug Administration has given approval of a research study at five named centres in the United States of America to evaluate the safety and performance of the organ care system in heart transplantation. This study will start in 2008 and may provide relevant evidence for the future.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on the health economy of *(a)* reducing ischaemic injury to donor organs and *(b)* the ability to evaluate organ function prior to transplantation to avoid diseased organs being transplanted; and if he will make a statement. [168370]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no specific assessment of the effect on the health economy of reducing ischaemic injury to donor organs and the ability to evaluate organ function prior to transplantation to avoid diseased organs being transplanted. We continue to support action to increase the number, safety and quality of organs donated for transplantation to enable more people to benefit from a transplant.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transplants of each type of organ in each primary care trust area there were in each of the last 10 years. [167643]

**Ann Keen:** This information has been placed in the Library.

### Urology

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes relating to the treatment of ruptured bladders there have been in the NHS in each year since 1997-98. [166440]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a diagnosis that mentions the rupture of a bladder not due to trauma, in national health service hospitals in each year from 1997-08 to 2005-06.

| | *Number of finished consultant episodes* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 83 |
| 2004-05 | 52 |
| 2003-04 | 68 |
| 2002-03 | 69 |
| 2001-02 | 57 |
| 2000-01 | 46 |
| 1999-2000 | 75 |
| 1998-99 | 66 |
| 1997-98 | 62 |

*Notes:*

1. *Data Quality* HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
2. *Assessing growth through time* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
3. *All Diagnoses count of episodes* These figures represent a count of all FCEs where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record. An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
4. *Ungrossed Data* Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Business: Non-domestic Rates

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment has been produced for the Government's plans for a supplementary business rate. [171600]

**John Healey:** The introduction of a supplementary business rate will be a local decision. It will therefore be for individual local authorities to consider the potential impact on local businesses in developing proposals for business rate supplements. In consulting with local businesses and other stakeholders, authorities will need to include their assessment of the economic benefits and costs of the particular project and supplement, which will vary from case to case.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum permitted business rate multiplier to be levied in a Business District is in a locality with the maximum permitted supplementary business rate. [171605]

**John Healey:** Subject to Parliament's approval of the necessary primary legislation, the maximum business rate supplement will be 2p per pound of rateable value. The business rate multiplier will continue to be set in the usual way. It will be for any local authority setting a business rate supplement to determine whether any business improvement district (BID) levy should be offset against the business rate supplement. As now, there is no statutory maximum limit on BIDs levies.

### Care Homes: Manpower

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Government give to housing associations on the provision of residential wardens in sheltered accommodation. [172042]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* The Government do not issue detailed guidance to housing associations on the provision of residential wardens in sheltered accommodation. The Housing Corporation, which is responsible for the regulation of registered social landlords, does not specify how support services should be delivered in housing for older people but it does state in its guidance that tenants in housing for older people should have access to support services as need arises to enable them to live in the property for the rest of their lifetimes.

### Casinos

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the interdepartmental working group considering alternatives to the regional casino in Manchester has met; on which dates; and who was in attendance on each occasion. [169018]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today PQs 166759 to 166763.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for her review of super-casinos; if she will publish her terms of reference for this review; and whether her review will include an assessment of the merits of casinos defined as *(a)* small and *(b)* large under the terms of the Gambling Act 2005. [171591]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) to PQs 166759 to 166763.

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions she has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171318]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

### Council Housing

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Housing Corporation has provided to local authorities and housing associations on the account to be taken when determining social lettings in a locality or on an estate of the existing ethnic composition of those areas. [171606]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The code of guidance on the allocation of accommodation advises local authorities to ensure that their allocation scheme and lettings plan are representative of the community and promote community cohesion; and to ensure that the views of groups which are currently under-represented in social housing are taken into account when consulting on their allocation scheme and developing their lettings plans. Otherwise, the code advises authorities that they must ensure that their allocation policies and procedures do not discriminate, directly or indirectly, on grounds of race or ethnicity.

The Housing Corporation's regulatory code and guidance expects registered social landlords (RSLs) to have lettings and sales policies that are flexible, non-discriminatory and responsive to demand, while contributing to the need to be inclusive and the need to ensure sustainable communities. The regulatory code also expects RSLs to ensure their lettings are proportionate to black and minority ethnic housing need in the areas where the RSL has homes.

### Council Housing: Debts

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the housing debt was of each local authority in each year since 1997; how much principal debt was paid off in each year by each authority and how this was resourced or otherwise financed, categorised by *(a)* right to buy receipts, *(b)* transfer receipts, *(c)* other capital receipts, *(d)* Treasury debt write off and *(e)* support for overhanging debt; what the cost was of servicing the debt, including the interest rate; and what were the means whereby this was funded. [165562]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have arranged for a table showing: the level of housing debt, the amount each authority with debt set-aside for the repayment of that housing debt, the cost of servicing the debt (the 'Item 8 debit' in the Housing Revenue Account) and the interest rate that the housing debt attracted (the 'Consolidated rate of Interest' or CRI) for each financial year from 1997-98 to 2005-06 (the last year for which audited data is available) to be deposited in the Library.

Until 1 April 2004, local authorities were required to 'set aside' a proportion of their capital receipts for the repayment of housing debt, although whether or not the amount set aside was actually used to repay housing debt was a treasury management decision for the authority. It was assumed for the purposes of HRA subsidy that housing debt was repaid. The absence of set-aside data in the table after 2003-04 reflects the introduction of the housing capital receipts 'pooling' regime replacing set-aside and there being no requirement to collect 'set-aside' data from that year. Set-aside data used in the HRA subsidy calculation were audited and so collected in the year following the year it was actually set-aside. It was considered that building set-aside into the HRA subsidy model for 2004-05 was not appropriate as the pooling of capital receipts would also be operating for this year.

The data available to Communities and Local Government do not allow the break-down of set-aside into its constitute parts, which will include right to buy sales, transfer receipts and receipts from other disposals such as the sale of housing land.

Treasury does not 'write off' housing debt. Any overhanging housing debt arising from a housing stock transfer is cleared by a payment from Communities and Local Government. These payments are made from an Annually Managed Expenditure Budget held by the Department. Under this arrangement debt moves from one part of the public sector to another, and in consequence there is no net increase in the public sector borrowing requirement. The Exchequer meets future interest payments generated by such transactions.

The following table shows the value of transfer receipts and the value of overhanging debt payments by year for England since 1997.

*£ million*

| | *Transfer receipts* | *Overhanging debt payments* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 259.67 | 0 |
| 1998-99 | 483.94 | 0 |
| 1999-2000 | 658.67 | 21.00 |
| 2000-01 | 830.20 | 255.20 |
| 2001-02 | 377.73 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 545.87 | 548.20 |
| 2003-04 | 140.83 | 91.00 |
| 2004-05 | 200.40 | 591.48 |
| 2005-06 | 128.53 | 385.87 |
| 2006-07 | 91.98 | 533.49 |
| Current financial year to date | 156.86 | 252.00 |

## Council Tax

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the electorate has a personal liability for council tax in whole or in part, excluding households on 100 per cent. council tax benefit and those with a 100 per cent. exemption from council tax. [171714]

**John Healey:** Table 1 of the statistics release 'Local Authority Taxbase - 2007 England' gives details of properties in England as at 8 October 2007 that were liable for council tax. This release is available on the Communities and Local Government's website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctbase07.htm.

Information to establish the number of people personally liable for council tax is not held centrally.

## Council Tax: Greater London

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Greater London Authority precept, and its predecessors' equivalent was in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* as a proportion of Band D council tax in each year since 1997-98. [171579]

**John Healey:** Details of the Greater London authority precept, and its predecessors' equivalent, in both cash terms and as a proportion of the average two-adult band D council tax for London, in each year since 1997-98 are shown in the following table. No other precepts were levied on London council tax bills in 1997-98.

| | *Cash terms (£)* | | | *As percentage of average two-adult band D council tax for London* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *GLA* | *London fire* | *Metropolitan police* | *GLA* | *London fire* | *Metropolitan police* |
| 1997-98 | — | 25 | 63 | — | 4 | 10 |
| 1998-99 | — | 26 | 76 | — | 4 | 11 |
| 1999-2000 | — | 28 | 83 | — | 4 | 11 |
| 2000-01 | 123 | — | — | 16 | — | — |
| 2001-02 | 151 | — | — | 18 | — | — |
| 2002-03 | 174 | — | — | 19 | — | — |
| 2003-04 | 224 | — | — | 21 | — | — |
| 2004-05 | 241 | — | — | 22 | — | — |
| 2005-06 | 255 | — | — | 22 | — | — |
| 2006-07 | 289 | — | — | 24 | — | — |
| 2007-08 | 304 | — | — | 24 | — | — |

## Council Tax: Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the current cap is on the maximum Band D precept that Lee Valley Regional Park Authority can set. [171515]

**John Healey:** The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is funded by a levy on authorities in Essex, Hertfordshire and Greater London and not by a council tax precept.

## Council Tax: York

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average level of council tax was in the Vale of York in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [168660]

**John Healey:** Details of the average council tax for the last three years in the local authority areas that are covered by the Vale of York are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

## Councillors Commission

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects *(a)* the Councillors Commission to report and *(b)* her Department to respond to that report. [171640]

**John Healey:** The Councillors Commission's report was published on 10 December. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be working with other Government Departments and key partners to consider the report and develop an implementation plan. The Department will respond to the Commission's report in March 2008.

## Councillors: Insurance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Government has provided on whether councillors travelling to council meetings are deemed to be employed by their local authority for insurance purposes. [171512]

**John Healey:** Insurance arrangements are matters for each individual local authority, on which the Government do not provide guidance.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many databases are maintained by her Department; and what the *(a)* title and *(b)* purpose is of each. [171687]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has numerous databases of varying size and complexity which are used in a wide variety of ways in support of the work of the Department. A more detailed response could be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

### Departmental Manpower

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in her Department in 2007. [165122]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not currently collect information about age of job applicants. A breakdown by the age bands requested of those appointed following external recruitment exercises (those posts advertised outside the Civil Service) held in 2007 as shown in the following table:

| | *Age 30-39* | *Age 40-49* | *Age 50-59* | *Age 60-69* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Temporary contract | | | 1 | 1 |
| Permanent contract | 10 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

These data do not include information from CLG executive agencies or the Government Offices. Nor do they include temporary agency staff or other workers who are not Departmental employees.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171546]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1470W, to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson). The figure for 2003-04 was £333,800.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in bonuses by her Department to staff in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by directorate. [171571]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1470W. The figure for 2003-04 was £333,800.

The Department has recently undergone internal reorganisation and a break down by directorate is not available.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by her Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibits the assignment of debt. [172323]

**Mr. Dhanda:** There is no express provision in the Department's standard contract terms prohibiting the assignment of debt. There is a provision which says that the contractor shall not assign, sub-contract or in any other way dispose of the contract or any part of it without the Department's prior approval.

On the basis that a prohibition on "assignment of debt" is a prohibition on a supplier from assigning money owed to it under a contract, we take this provision to mean that a contractor may not assign its debts, without approval from the contracting authority.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste her Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172418]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The volume and percentage of waste recycled by Communities and Local Government and its predecessor departments in each of the last five years is as follows:

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London Headquarters* | | | | | |
| Recycled Waste (tonnes) | 268 | 225 | 268 | 324 | 264 |
| Total Waste (tonnes) | 521 | 534 | 478 | 527 | 461 |
| Percentage Recycled | 51 | 42 | 56 | 61 | 57 |
| *Executive Agencies* | | | | | |
| Recycled Waste (tonnes) | n/k | n/k | 700 | 919 | 792 |
| Total Waste (tonnes) | n/k | n/k | 2,100 | 1,563 | 1,425 |
| Percentage Recycled | n/k | n/k | 33 | 59 | 56 |

n/k = not known

*Note:*

These data do not include figures from the regional Government offices

### Empty Property

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders have been approved by residential property tribunals since their introduction; and to which local authority areas they relate. [171502]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Mr. Wright) on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1038W. No further orders have been approved since that date.

### English Partnerships: Land

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons English Partnerships has reversed its decision to transfer the former Cashes Green hospital site to the Gloucester Land for People Community Land Trust pilot. [171558]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** English Partnerships has not reversed its decision on Cashes Green because a decision has not yet been made. English Partnerships' Board considered that the proposal from the Gloucester Land for People Community Land Trust failed to offer the best use of public sector monies as it did not conform to the criteria English Partnerships is required to apply when disposing of assets. We have asked English Partnerships to identify, in collaboration with Gloucester Land for People Community Land Trust and other stakeholders, alternative options for taking forward this Community Land Trust.

### Fire Services: Finance

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has received from fire authorities of the convergence costs associated with FiReControl, broken down by *(a)* authority and *(b)* region. [169490]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Detailed planning for the FiReControl transition is not yet complete. It is therefore not yet possible for Fire and Rescue Authorities to produce meaningful estimates of convergence costs.

### Fire Services: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* fire stations and *(b)* appliances there were in each London borough for each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [173486]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### First Time Buyers: Mortgages

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of first-time buyers in *(a)* London, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* England took out a mortgage on a home to the value of (i) 100 per cent., (ii) 90 per cent., and (iii) 80 per cent. of the value of the property in (A) 1997, (B) 2000, (C) 2003 and (D) 2006. [171807]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The proportion of first-time buyers in London, South East and England that took out mortgages on a home to the value of 100 per cent., 90 per cent. and 80 per cent. of the value of their property in 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2006 is shown in the following table.

*Proportion of first-time buyers that took out mortgages to the value of 100, 90 or 80 per cent. of the value of the property*

*Percentage*

| | *100 per cent* | | | *90 per cent.* | | | *80 per cent* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *London* | *South East* | *England* | *London* | *South East* | *England* | *London* | *South East* | *England* |
| 1997 | 4.9 | 3.0 | 4.2 | 6.5 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| 2000 | 4.9 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 12.5 | 11.1 | 11.0 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| 2003 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.9 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| 2006 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 6.6 | 15.0 | 15.9 | 17.3 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.5 |

*Source:*
Regulated Mortgage Survey

### Funerals: Poverty

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on meeting the burial costs of *(a)* Christian, *(b)* Jewish and *(c)* Muslim paupers in the latest period for which figures are available. [169806]

**Mr. Dhanda:** My Department has no expenditure records on meeting these burial costs. However, in some cases, it might indirectly support these activities through the funding for local authorities.

### Greater London Authority: Buildings

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the estimated £171 million cost of the lease for City Hall is in 2000 prices. [173229]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The figure of £171.2 million provided in my earlier answer of 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1324W, is in actual prices, not 2000 prices.

### Hammersmith and Fulham Council: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest comprehensive performance assessment rating and direction of travel of Hammersmith and Fulham Council is; and what period it covers. [171893]

**John Healey:** The London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was rated overall as '4 Star and improving well' in its last CPA assessment for 2005-06 published by the Audit Commission in March 2007. This was an improvement on the 2004-05 assessment of '3 Star and improving well' published in January 2006.

### Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167936]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not provide health insurance for staff.

### Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the range of the additional build costs of a zero carbon home, over and above those arising from compliance with Part L of the 2006 building regulations. [173307]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 35W.

### Housing: Demolition

**[illegible] Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many property demolitions funded by the Bridging Newcastle Gateshead Pathfinder there were in each electoral ward up to 31 October, and how many such properties were previously owner-occupied. [172030]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The total number of demolitions by ward for the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Walker | 251 |
| Fenham | 131 |
| Elswick | 127 |
| Scotswood/Benwell | 682 |
| Felling | 197 |
| The Bridges | 225 |
| Kenton | 100 |
| Byker | 41 |

These figures refer to all tenancy types. We do not currently have figures for all wards for owner occupiers on a consistent basis.

### Housing: Domestic Safety

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many assessments under the housing health and safety rating system concluded with the determination of a category 1 hazard in *(a)* public and *(b)* social housing in each local authority in 2006-07. [167571]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department does not collect data on the number of housing health and safety rating system inspections carried out by local authorities.

It has commenced collecting information on the rating system through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) returned by local authorities. These will provide data as at April 2007. The Department expects to publish both the BPSA and HSSA in January 2008 subject to data quality.

The HSSA data will include figures for dwellings with category 1 hazards, the estimated cost of removing the category 1 hazards in private sector dwellings (not including registered social landlords) and the number of private sector dwellings made free of category 1 hazards or demolished as a direct result of action by the local authority during 2006-07.

The BPSA data will include figures for the number of local authority homes that do not meet the statutory minimum standard for housing and the costs to put the defects right.

The English House Condition Survey will provide a national estimate of category 1 hazards for its 2006 findings, which we expect to publish early in 2008. This will provide estimates of the number of category 1 hazards in each type of housing stock at the national level.

### Housing: Energy

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on use of retrofit to improve the energy efficiency of existing houses; and if she will make a statement. [168645]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There is already an extensive body of research data on improving the energy efficiency of existing homes. The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) undertook a stock take for the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005 of the sustainability and energy efficiency of existing housing, covering energy, water, materials and construction and demolition waste, and household waste. Their report "Stock Take: Delivering improvements in existing housing", is available on the SDC website at:

www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications/downloads/SDC%20Stock%20Take%20Report.pdf

My Department published its own initial analysis of the energy efficiency of existing buildings in November 2006. An analysis has also been commissioned from the Office of Climate Change.

My Department is working with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to develop proposals for the Technology Strategy Board, sponsored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Science to support innovation in materials and technologies that would improve the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings.

The Technology Strategy Board is finalising the delivery plan to launch the Innovation Platform on Low Impact Buildings early in 2008. Further information on the Technology Strategy Board can be found at:

www.berr.gov.uk/innovation/technologystrategyboard/

### Housing: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the implementation of the housing and planning delivery grant does not create incentives for *(a)* over-development of one-bedroom flats, *(b)* over-development in areas of constraint and *(c)* poor design quality. [171719]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government are currently consulting on a proposed allocation mechanism for the housing and planning delivery grant. The consultation closes on 17 January 2008.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much housing revenue account monies has been taken from each local authority in each of the last five years; who received that revenue; how the redistribution was conducted; what the forecasts are for each local authority involved in returning or receiving monies over the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [172813]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** A table showing the allocations of housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy for each year between 2001-02 and 2005-06 (the last year for which we have audited figures) inclusive has been deposited in the Library of the House.

In the years up to and including 2003-04, the redistribution was effected by offsetting housing element (bricks and mortar subsidy) against rent rebate element. Since 1 April 2004, rent rebates are no longer accounted for in the housing revenue account. Surpluses are now paid direct to my Department, which also pays subsidy to those authorities in overall assumed deficit.

We do not make forecasts of individual authorities' HRA subsidy entitlements.

### Housing: Green Belt

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were built within the 1997 designated green belt in Suffolk in each year between 1997 and 2006. [173454]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There is no 1997 designated green belt in Suffolk.

Green belt accounts for 13 per cent. of the land area of England.

### Housing: Heating

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what percentage of dwellings in the North West have failed the thermal comfort test rating; [172061]

(2) what the average Standard Assessment Procedure rating is for dwellings in the North West. [172062]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department does not have estimates of homes failing thermal comfort or average SAP ratings for each individual region.

In 2005 the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) reported that 20 per cent. of dwellings in the northern regions (including the North West, Yorkshire and Humber and the North East) failed the thermal comfort criterion of the decent homes standard. This was the same as the national average.

In 2005, the EHCS also reported that the average SAP for dwellings in the northern regions (including the North West, Yorkshire and Humber and the North East) was 48. This was the same as the national average.

### Land: Databases

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status is of the National Spatial Address Infrastructure; and how much has been spent from the public purse on the scheme. [173222]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In June 2007, the Department announced it would not be carrying out any further work on the National Spatial Address Infrastructure (NSAI). Further details can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/geographicinformationinitiatives/nationalspatialaddress/

The costs associated with the NSAI were provided in the response given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1855W.

### Local Authorities: North West Region

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what instructions she has given to Government Office for the North West on ensuring that hon. Members are *(a)* notified and *(b)* invited to meetings which they arrange between ministers and local authorities. [172640]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: Ministers' Private Offices have instructions to inform hon. Members if a Minister is to visit their constituency and to notify the Minister of any request to attend meetings.

### Local Government Act 1986

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986; and how many incidences of non-compliance were reported to her Department in each of the last five years. [166995]

**John Healey:** Earlier this year, we consulted on the rules about the issuing of publicity by councils. We received over 450 responses, none of which suggested any change was needed to Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986. Communities and Local Government does not have a monitoring role in councils' compliance with this provision.

### Local Government Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the average cost of providing local authority services to *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban authorities; and if she will make a statement; [170876]

(2) what consideration she gives to the difference in costs to urban and rural authorities of providing services when determining the allocation of local authorities' grants settlements; and if she will make a statement. [170967]

**John Healey:** Each of the Relative Needs Formulae used in the calculation of the Relative Needs Amount for each authority attempts to assess the relative costs of providing services for each local authority that provides the relevant service, both urban and rural. No estimate of the actual cost of providing local authority services is made under the current method of calculating formula grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula Police Grant, where appropriate.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she gives to fuel costs when allocating the local authorities' grants settlements; what steps she has taken to alleviate this financial pressure on local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [170968]

**John Healey:** Fuel cost is not a direct factor used in the calculation of any Relative Needs Formula. However, a number of Relative Needs Formulae include a measure of the sparsity of the population. This is partially to reflect the additional travelling costs, including fuel, in sparsely-populated areas.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name is of each funding stream for *(a)* social exclusion, *(b)* housing and *(c)* regeneration from central Government to local authorities in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [171573]

**John Healey:** Many programmes address more than one objective so strict classification is not generally applicable. For example, Communities and Local Government's Decent Homes programme improves the condition of housing and estates in the most deprived areas and so helps address social exclusion, housing and regeneration objectives.

The names used in 2007-08 of principal funding streams from central Government to local authorities which help address social exclusion, housing and regeneration objectives include:

Supporting People;
Gypsy Site Grant;
Homelessness;
Local Authority Supported Capital Expenditure;
Growth Area Funding;
Planning Delivery Grant;
Housing Market Renewal;
Housing Mobility Grant;
Disabled Facilities Grant;
London Development Agency (LDA);
Arms Length Management Organisations and Regional Housing Pot Grant (Decent Homes);
HIPs;
Thames Gateway;
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative;
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund;
Kickstart; and
Rural Bus Subsidy Grant.

Details of Government funding to local authorities in 2008-09 were announced in the provisional local government finance settlement on 6 December.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the reward grant given to local area agreements is ring-fenced to meet the targets laid out in the agreement. [171711]

**John Healey:** Performance reward grant is not ring-fenced to meet targets but is paid to authorities in the two financial years following the end of a local area agreement as a reward for achievement of specific targets within the LAA. It is paid to areas provided they achieve at least 60 per cent. of the stretch on reward targets. This money is paid as a non-ring-fenced grant; half can be used to support capital and half revenue expenditure. Local areas are expected to make arrangements with partners on sharing the performance reward grant.

### Local Government Finance Funding Changes Independent Inquiry

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to produce a formal response to the Lyons Inquiry on local government. [171583]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1530W.

### Local Government Finance: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she gave to the percentage of the population aged over 65 years in Herefordshire when determining the local authority grants allocation; and if she will make a statement. [170880]

**John Healey:** The sub-national population projections of people aged 65 and over are used in the Social Services for Older People Relative Need Formula (RNF) to determine the number of projected household and supported residents aged 65 years and over. A Social Services for Older People RNF is calculated for Herefordshire since it is the authority with responsibility for social services within its area.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she gave to the number of immigrants in Herefordshire when determining the local authority grant allocation; and if she will make a statement. [170965]

**John Healey:** For the majority of the Relative Needs Formulae used in the calculation of the Relative Needs Amount, the client group is based on the sub-national population projections for the appropriate age group. The sub-national population projections estimate the number of people who are resident in the area for over a year, including immigrants. The 2003 based sub-national population projections for 2007 were used for the 2007-08 Local Government Finance Settlement.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she gave to the average household income in Herefordshire when determining the local authority's grant allocation; and if she will make a statement. [170966]

**John Healey:** Household income is not a factor that has been shown to influence the relative need to spend on any particular service. However, various measures of deprivation are included within the Relative Needs Formulae, for example the number of income support claimants and the number of people receiving unemployment-related benefits.

### Local Government: Complaints

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average length of time the Local Government Ombudsman took to consider a complaint was in each of the last three years; [170219]

(2) how many complaints her Department has received on the decision-making process of the Local Government Ombudsman in each of the last three years; [170220]

(3) what consideration she has given to bringing forward amendments to reform the system of appeals against local government ombudsman decisions. [170221]

**John Healey:** The average length of time taken for the Local Government ombudsman to determine a complaint in each of the last three years was as follows:

| | *Weeks* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 15.5 |
| 2005-06 | 16.9 |
| 2006-07 | 18.4 |

My Department has received around 50 letters of complaint about the decision-making process of the local government ombudsman in each of the last three years.

Challenges to decisions made by the local government ombudsman are matters for the courts. My Department has no plans to amend these arrangements.

### Local Government: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in relation to which Best Value Performance Indicators which are not included in the National Indicator set local authorities will be required to collect and submit data to central Government. [171607]

**John Healey:** No additional performance indicators will be collected other than those in the national indicator set. We are committed to reducing data returns from all front line public sector organisations by 30 per cent. by May 2010. However, as set out in the 2006 Local Government White Paper, "Strong and Prosperous Communities", there will be a need for local authorities to report limited additional information, for reasons such as financial management and statistical data to support national policy development.

### Maps: Green Belt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what reasons her Department cancelled the commercial licence for the green belt boundaries dataset on her Department's Maps on Taps database; [173326]

(2) which commercial supplier provided the green belt boundaries dataset for the Maps on Taps database; and how much was spent on this dataset before the contract was cancelled by her Department. [173329]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The green belt boundaries dataset was provided by Landmark Information Group. £32,606.25 was spent on this contract.

The licence was cancelled because we can now collect digital data more efficiently from local authorities.

### Non-profit Making Organisations

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to support social enterprises following assessment of responses to the Third Sector discussion paper and outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [172759]

**John Healey:** Responses to our Third Sector Strategy discussion paper are currently being analysed and we welcome the useful submissions from many social enterprises and entrepreneur organisations. We are aiming to publish our final strategy, including support available for social enterprise, early next year.

### Ordnance Survey: Green Belt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records Ordnance Survey holds of green belt boundaries. [173323]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** None.

### Parish Councils

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new parish councils were established in England in the last 24 months. [171501]

**John Healey:** In the last 24 months there were 23 new parish councils established in England.

### Parish Councils: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the new powers for parish councils in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 will be resourced via *(a)* additional funding from central Government and *(b)* a higher parish precept on council tax bills. [171575]

**John Healey:** The Act empowers parish councils in two ways: to appoint additional parish councillors; and (where the parish council is eligible) to exercise the power of wellbeing under section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

The power to appoint additional parish councillors will not require resources. The power of wellbeing will enable eligible parish councils to do anything which they consider is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area. The extent to which the power is exercised, and the costs funded, will be a matter for eligible parish councils themselves.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what obligations will fall upon London boroughs to provide funding for parish councils set up within borough boundaries; [171576]

(2) what additional funding has been allocated by central Government to parish councils in London for *(a)* set up and *(b)* running costs. [171577]

**John Healey:** As with principal councils elsewhere in England who are responsible for undertaking community governance reviews, there are no obligations on London borough councils to provide funding for parish councils they may set up. It will be for them to decide whether to establish new community governance arrangements in their areas, and to anticipate the set up and running costs of the first precept to any new parish council.

### Personal Care Services: Licensing

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the case for licensing of nail bars by local authorities. [162003]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Nail bars are subject to a number of regulatory regimes, for example in relation to health and safety. There are currently no proposals for licensing of nail bars by local authorities.

### Planning

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-73, on national security, what plans she has to amend planning policy guidance. [171641]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Government planning policy on design already asks planning authorities to create safe environments where crime and disorder or fear of crime does not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. We do however plan to publish a counter terrorism supplement to our guidance "Safer Places—the Planning System and Crime Prevention" which is intended to be a practical guide to how best to design counter terrorism measures into new development proposals while ensuring that they are of high design quality.

### Planning Permission: Government Buildings

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning applications her Department has submitted in relation to requests for planning permission on its departmental properties in the last 12 months; on what buildings; and for what purposes. [173378]

**Mr. Dhanda:** No planning applications have been submitted by Communities and Local Government in relation to its departmental properties in the last 12 months. This answer does not include land and buildings occupied by Government Offices, who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments, CLG's Government agencies or NDPBs.

### PricewaterhouseCoopers

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value is of the new consultancy and contracts awarded to PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2007-08; and whether those contracts contain provisions limiting freedom of information disclosure. [172584]

**Mr. Dhanda:** One new consultancy contract was awarded for £600,000. The contract was awarded under the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions framework agreement for the provision of financial management consultancy. The standard contractual terms and conditions applied and these do not contain provisions limiting freedom of information disclosure.

### Regeneration: Greater Manchester

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the membership is of the inter-departmental working group led by her Department that is considering regeneration alternatives to the regional casino in Manchester; [166759]

(2) which organisations she has *(a)* consulted and *(b)* received representations from as part of her review of the regeneration alternatives to the regional casino in Manchester; [166760]

(3) which organisations she has met as part of her review of the regeneration alternatives to the regional casino in Manchester; [166761]

(4) when she expects to publish the outcomes of her review of regeneration alternatives to the regional casino in Manchester; [166762]

(5) how many full-time equivalent civil servants have been seconded to work on the review of regeneration alternatives to the regional casino in Manchester. [166763]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]*: In July, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said that the Government would consider the question of whether deprived areas could be equally well served by other forms of regeneration than the development of regional casinos. While Manchester will clearly have an interest in the findings of the review, the response is not specific to alternatives to a regional casino in Manchester—it applies to deprived areas more broadly. The review of alternatives to regional casino led regeneration will report shortly.

As a part of this process, an inter-departmental working group has been set up. Since July 2007, three full meetings have been held, on: 9 August, 10 September and 20 September.

All meetings had representatives from Communities and Local Government, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Work and

Pensions, the Department for Transport, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Cabinet Office, the Treasury, and Government Office North West.

During the review, Communities and Local Government officials have consulted the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Transport, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Cabinet Office, HM Treasury, Government Office North West, local authorities (including Blackpool and Manchester), and members of one of Communities and Local Government's External Expert Panels (including Michael Parkinson, Vince Taylor and Graham Russell).

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has also met with representatives from Manchester city council, Blackpool council, and local hon. Members to hear their views.

Civil servants have to date devoted a significant amount of time to the investigation of alternatives to regional casino led regeneration, although the review has not specifically a dedicated resource.

### Regional Planning and Development: Public Participation

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to simplify the statutory forms designed for public participation in local development plans. [172779]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: There is no statutory form that local authorities are required to use in consultation. The Planning Inspectorate published guidance in 2005 which included a model form for various stages of plan preparation. This is not statutory and can be modified or replaced entirely by one of the local authorities' own design.

On 27 November 2007, we published revised draft regulations and guidance on producing local development plan documents which are designed to streamline and simplify the process.

### Rented Housing

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations responded to her Department's consultation on the Mechanism for Setting Guideline Rents in Housing Revenue Account subsidy 2008-09 and 2009-10. [164192]

**Yvette Cooper:** The organisations that responded were as follows:

Adur District Council
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Basildon Council
Birmingham City Council
Blyth Valley Council
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
Bristol City Council
Cambridge City Council
Chester-le-Street District Council
CIPFA
City of Nottingham
Corby Borough Council
Croydon Council
Derby City Council
Dover District Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Fareham Borough Council
Gravesham Borough Council
Haringey Council
Harlow District Council
Harrogate Borough Council
Homes for Islington
Hounslow Homes Hull
Lambeth Housing
Leeds City Council
Lewisham Borough Council
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
London Borough of Camden
London Borough of Hackney
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Southwark Council
London Councils
Luton Borough Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
North Tyneside
North Warwickshire Borough Council
Oxford City Council
Salford County Council Sanctuary Housing Group
Sheffield City Council
Sheltered Housing Residents Group
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council/Solihull Community Housing
South Bedfordshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Southampton City Council
Stevenage Homes Ltd.
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Swindon Borough Council
Tandridge District Council
Taunton Deane Borough Council
Wandsworth Council
Westminster City Council
Wokingham Borough Council

### Shala v. Birmingham City Council

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to guidance for local authorities her Department is making following the Court of Appeal's judgment in the case of Shala *v.* Birmingham City Council [2007] EWCA Civ 624. [171460]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There are no current plans to make any amendments to guidance for local authorities following the Court of Appeal judgment in the case of Shala *v.* Birmingham City Council [2007] EWCA Civ 624. We expect local housing authorities to take account of all relevant case law, including this case, when considering applications for housing, under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 that involve medical evidence.

### Small Businesses: Non-Domestic Rates

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses were in receipt of small business rate relief in the latest period for which figures are available. [171648]

**John Healey:** As at 31 December 2006, there were 392,000 businesses in England that were in receipt of small business rate relief.

### Standards Board for England and Adjudication Panel: Information Officers

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officer, media, communications and marketing staff are employed by *(a)* the Standards Board for England and Adjudication Panel, *(b)* the Audit Commission, *(c)* English Partnerships and *(d)* the Housing Corporation. [171650]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to The White Book, published by COI, which is available in the Library of the House.

### Sustainable Communities Act 2007

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the commencement timetable is for the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007; [171644]

(2) what plans she has to issue guidance to local authorities on their new powers and duties under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [171645]

**John Healey:** The provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 commenced on the day on which the Act received Royal Assent, 23 October 2007. The Government intend to publish draft regulations and guidance for consultation early in the new year. The consultation package will include a draft timetable for implementation of the Act's provisions.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for producing local spending reports in accordance with Section 6 of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [171649]

**John Healey:** Section 6(9) of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 requires the Secretary of State to make arrangements for the production of local spending reports within the period of 18 months beginning with the day on which the Act was passed. This period ends on 22 April 2009. The Government intend to make such arrangements before this date and will publish their plans for implementation of the Act early in the new year.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sponsorship each Minister in her Department received from trade unions in the last 12 months. [171506]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Sponsorship that Ministers may have received in the last 12 months has been declared in the Register of Members' Interests in the usual way.

### Unitary Councils

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to create further unitary authorities. [171624]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made to the House on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 65-69WS.

### Unitary Councils: Norwich

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of her Department's proposals for a unitary council for Norwich on local government structures in the rest of Norfolk. [171626]

**John Healey:** My Department has made no proposals for unitary structures. In October 2006 we invited councils in England to submit unitary proposals. Our invitation was clear that only those proposals that met the outcomes specified in our criteria would proceed towards implementation and all proposals had to set out the arrangements which were to apply in the remainder of the county area.

In the written ministerial statement I made to the House on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 65-69WS, I announced that we are still minded not to implement Norwich city council's unitary proposal and intend to ask the Boundary Committee for advice on the proposal and on whether for the area affected, Norwich city and the remaining county area, there could be alternative unitary solutions, involving boundary changes, which would meet the five criteria set out in our invitation.

### Written Questions

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will answer questions *(a)* 166759, *(b)* 166760, *(c)* 166761, *(d)* 166762 and *(e)* 166763 tabled by the hon. Member for South West Surrey on 16 November, on the review her Department is carrying out on the regeneration of Manchester. [171657]

**John Healey:** I have now replied to the hon. Member's questions.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 12 December 2007*

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each Civil Service grade are employed in Number 10 Downing street. [172742]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to her by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) today.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Voluntary Sector Funding

10. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding from the public purse was given to the voluntary sector for the delivery of public services in the last 12 months. [173059]

**Phil Hope:** The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) estimates that for 2004-05 the total income from statutory sources to the voluntary sector was £10.2 billion. This has doubled from £5 billion in 1996-97. This is the most significant driver of the sector's financial growth in the last 10 years.

### Civil Servants

11. **David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what procedures are in place to record hospitality or entertainment received by and offered to senior civil servants of his Department. [173060]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1095-96W.

### Cyber-security and IT Resilience

12. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how often he holds discussions with other Government Departments on cyber-security and IT resilience. [173061]

**Gillian Merron:** Ministers meet regularly with colleagues in other Government Departments to discuss a wide range of issues.

### Youth Volunteering

13. **Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what support the Government plans to provide to encourage more young people to volunteer. [173062]

**Phil Hope:** As outlined in the Third Sector Review, the Government will be investing £117 million in youth volunteering through v from 2008-11. This is the biggest ever investment in youth volunteering.

The youth-led volunteering charity v was established in May 2006 with the mission to inspire one million more young people to volunteer. Since its establishment, v has created over 200,000 volunteering opportunities for young people.

As part of this, v launched vinvolved on 22 November which aims to create 500,000 more volunteering opportunities for young people.

### Good Causes: Lancashire

15. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the funding likely to be distributed to good causes in the County Palatine in 2008. [173064]

**Edward Miliband:** The Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund has budgeted to distribute £375,000, up from £345,000 last year, of which £290,000 is allocated to the County Palatine and the balance to other geographical areas where the Duchy has links.

### Third Sector

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the contribution of the third sector to the development of social policy; and if he will make a statement. [173057]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs. Moon).

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171320]

**Gillian Merron:** Chapter 7 of the ministerial code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Cabinet Office staff work in support of each of his Department's objectives. [167090]

**Gillian Merron:** The number of staff working in support of each of three Cabinet objectives can be found on page 50 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource accounts, copies of which are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are employed by the Cabinet Office, broken down by civil service grade. [172687]

**Gillian Merron:** The figures requested are published by the Office for National Statistics in "Civil Service Statistics". The latest figures are available in Table H of "Civil Service Statistics 2006" at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171343]

**Gillian Merron:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the "Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers" list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All overseas travel, including accommodation, is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Dorneywood

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the use of Dorneywood has been offered to Ministers, other than the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for official engagements. [171458]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on Tuesday 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1077W.

### Internet: Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department has spent on promoting and developing the Get Safe Online initiative. [167119]

**Gillian Merron:** The Cabinet Office has contributed £300,000 to the Get Safe Online initiative in the last three years alongside contributions from the corporate sponsors including eBay, HSBC, Microsoft, Cable and Wireless and Symantec. The Cabinet Office will be contributing a further £150,000 towards this year's ongoing awareness campaign which includes internet safety road shows, web advertising, online quizzes and competitions and direct marketing.

Get Safe Online, a Government and industry initiative, plays an important role in raising awareness and promoting information on internet safety.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times on average members of his Department's staff based in the provincial reconstruction team in Lashkar Gah left the team's compound other than by air in each of the last six months. [172128]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Average monthly moves vary depending on the assessed security situation. For the last six months, an individual member has left the team's compound an average of 9.6 times per month by ground. This applies to all staff except those in an administrative/support role who are not expected to leave the base except by air.

### Colombia: Kidnapping

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department have had with (i) French and (ii) Colombian officials on negotiations to secure the release of Ingrid Betancourt and other hostages kidnapped by Colombian guerillas; and if he will make a statement. [173508]

**Dr. Howells:** I have not held talks specifically on Ingrid Betancourt with French or Colombian counterparts. I and my noble Friend the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, have discussed the issue of hostage taking with our Colombian counterparts, within the context of the ongoing internal conflict in Colombia. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and our ambassador in Bogota have held discussions on these issues with French and Colombian counterparts.

Hostage taking in any form can never be justified. It is unacceptable that illegal armed groups in Colombia have kidnapped thousands of innocent civilians, including Mrs. Betancourt. EU Council Conclusions on Colombia, agreed in November 2007, included the following points on hostage taking and humanitarian exchanges of prisoners:

> "The Council strongly condemns the violations of International Humanitarian Law that continue to be committed by the illegal armed groups. In this context it demands that they stop kidnapping and all other acts of terrorism or violence against the civilian population forthwith. The Council reaffirms the EU's solidarity with the Colombian government, the Colombian people and all victims of those acts. It also reiterates its firm demand that the illegal armed groups stop kidnappings and release all detained hostages immediately and unconditionally, and cease all hostilities."
>
> "The Council hopes that progress will be made in taking forward negotiations between the Colombian government and illegal armed groups, in order to reach a humanitarian agreement, and secure the release of all hostages, to overcome the armed conflict and bring lasting peace to Colombia. In the same spirit, the European Union welcomes all initiatives taken with the Colombian government's support with the objective of promoting a successful peace process."

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172319]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** There is no express provision in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's model contracts prohibiting the assignment of debt. However, there is a provision which says that the contractor shall not assign, sub-contract or in any other way dispose of the contract or any part of it without the contracting authority's prior approval. On the basis that a prohibition on "assignment of debt" is a prohibition on a supplier from assigning money owed to it under a contract, we take this provision to mean that a contractor may not assign its debts, without approval from the contracting authority.

### EC Reform: Treaties

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the means of securing an earlier termination of the term of office of the President of the European Council envisaged under the draft EU Reform Treaty; what representations he has received on the subject; and if he will make a statement. [172162]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government support a full-time president of the European Council, appointed for a mandate of two and a half years, renewable once. He or she will replace the current president of the European Council, who changes every six months. He or she will be chosen by heads of state and government by qualified majority and will be accountable to them. Having a full-time chair of the European Council will bring greater coherence and consistency to the EU's actions; and will give member states greater capacity to give direction and momentum to the EU's agenda.

### Ethiopia: Human Rights

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made in the cases of Daniel Bekele and Netsanet Demissie, currently on trial in Ethiopia. [172625]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We continue to press for a quick, fair and transparent conclusion to the trial of Daniel Bekele and Netsanet Demissie.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear when he met Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin on 13 November. More recently, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Baroness Vadera, and our Ambassador in Addis Ababa reiterated this point when they met Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi on 21 November.

### EU Countries: Overseas Workers

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department compiles statistics on the numbers of British citizens resident and working in each of the new acessession states of the European Union. [172994]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Our network of posts overseas are asked each year to provide an estimate of the number of British nationals resident in their Consular areas. The results of the 2006-07 survey for those states that have joined the EU since 2004 (accession states) are recorded as follows. We do not, however, compile data about the specific activities of British citizens resident overseas.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Bulgaria | 1,700 |
| Cyprus | 57,500 |
| Czech Republic | 3,183 |
| Estonia | 220 |
| Hungary | 2,640 |
| Latvia | 400 |
| Lithuania | 250 |
| Malta | 6,000 |
| Poland | 2,531 |
| Romania | 6,000 |
| Slovakia | 1,000 |
| Slovenia | 157 |

### EU Reform: Treaties

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the roles of *(a)* the EU External Action Service and *(b)* his Department will be in developing areas of policy where a EU common position has been decided if the Treaty of Lisbon is ratified; [170651]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely role of the EU External Action Service in *(a)* the United Nations and *(b)* the Commonwealth if the Treaty of Lisbon is ratified. [170652]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** EU common positions are agreed by the member states in the Council by unanimity. This arrangement will not change following ratification of the EU reform treaty.

No decisions have yet been taken on the organisation and functioning of the External Action Service, or on the timing of when formal discussions between the member states on the External Action Service should begin. But the treaty does provide for the organisation to assist the work of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to implement the decisions of the European Council and the Council, represent the Union for matters relating to the Common Foreign and Security Policy and organise the co-ordination of member states' action in international organisations and at international conferences. The treaty also specifies that the External Action Service shall operate in co-operation with the diplomatic services of the member states.

### Foreign Policy

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 109W, if he will list the areas of foreign policy for which EU common positions are in place; and if he will make a statement on the legal constraints on individual member states on operating separate foreign policies within such areas. [170576]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Details of all current and former common positions can be found on the EU website

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm.

These include common positions on policy towards Angola, Belarus, Burma, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iraq, Iran, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Liberia, Moldova, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Uzbekistan, Former Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. Thematic areas covered by common positions include non-proliferation, counter terrorism, conflict prevention in Africa and the international criminal court.

EU common positions are decided by the member states in the Council by unanimity. The UK will only agree to a common position when it is in line with our own policy. Once agreed member states commit themselves to supporting the common position—and this has been the case since the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty.

### Instrument for Pre-Accession

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial assistance has been allocated within the Instrument for Pre-Accession to *(a)* Bosnia-Herzegovina, *(b)* Serbia and *(c)* Croatia for each year from 2007 to 2010. [170327]

**David Miliband:** The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) came into force on 1 January 2007. IPA is a new, consolidated and simplified instrument that brings together previous funding streams and enhances donor co-ordination with international financial institutions. The UK provides 17.5 per cent. of the funding. Other significant donors are Germany (21.1 per cent.), France (16.4 per cent.) and Italy (13.6 per cent.).

We are closely involved with the process of ensuring that the right projects are prioritised and funded. It funds projects in the two countries negotiating to join the EU (Croatia and Turkey) and the countries which are candidates or pre-candidates for EU membership in the Western Balkans. These projects are crucial to the delivery of reforms preparing countries for EU membership. They promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for the protection of minorities, as well as economic reform and increased capacity to implement EU law and standards in areas ranging from free movement of goods to the environment.

Funding allocations for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia (not including Kosovo) for the period 2007-10 are:

| | € |
|---|---|
| *Bosnia and Herzegovina* | |
| 2007 | 662,100,000 |
| 2008 | 74,800,000 |
| 2009 | 89,100,000 |
| 2010 | 106,000,000 |
| *Croatia* | |
| 2007 | 141,227,000 |
| 2008 | 146,000,000 |
| 2009 | 151,200,000 |
| 2010 | 154,200,000 |
| *Serbia* | |
| 2007 | 189,700,000 |
| 2008 | 190,900,000 |
| 2009 | 194,800,000 |
| 2010 | 198,700,000 |

The full indicative allocations under IPA for 2007-11 can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2007/nov/miff_en.pdf.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on whether the Government shares the assessment of the November 2007 National Intelligence Estimate by the US National Intelligence Council that Iran maintained a covert programme of nuclear weapon design, weaponisation work and covert uranium conversion-related and uranium enrichment-related work prior to 2003; and if he will make a statement. [172383]

**David Miliband:** It is not the practice of this or previous Governments to comment on intelligence matters. However, it is important to note that nothing in the National Intelligence Estimate changes the fundamental problem that we face which is Iran's pursuit of a uranium enrichment programme that has, as far as we can see, no civilian application. This is despite the unanimous demand from the UN Security Council and from the International Atomic Energy Agency that it stop doing so. Accordingly, we will continue to act in the UN, the EU and bilaterally to persuade Iran to change its approach and comply with its international responsibilities.

### Iraq: Departmental Co-ordination

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 319W, on Iraq: departmental co-ordination, which department has the lead on implementing and monitoring the ex gratia assistance to be provided to Iraqi staff working for UK armed forces and civilian missions in Iraq. [167247]

**David Miliband:** There is no single Departmental lead. The Home Office has the lead on issues relating to the operation of the Gateway programme and the granting of leave to enter the UK, and co-ordinates closely with employing Government Departments on delivery of these aspects of the policy. Individual employing Departments are responsible for providing financial assistance to their own employees in line with the terms of the new policy. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to play a general co-ordinating role. Consistency is ensured by regular contacts between interested Departments in the UK and on the ground.

### Israel: Frontiers

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Israeli Government to reopen *(a)* the Karim crossing and *(b)* other closed crossings from Gaza. [172354]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1299-1300W.

### Occupied Territories: Food

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Israeli authorities on ensuring that people living in Gaza are not deprived of access to *(a)* food, *(b)* water, *(c)* medical supplies and *(d)* electricity. [172352]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1299-1300W.

### Palestinians: Politics and Government

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his policy in respect of the Hamas administration in Gaza. [172353]

**Dr. Howells:** We have repeatedly made clear that we are ready to engage with Hamas if they follow the Quartet (US, EU, UN and Russia) principles: renunciation of violence; recognition of Israel; and the acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap.

President Abbas is the elected President for all Palestinian people. Our priority is to support President Abbas and the legitimate Palestinian Government led by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad as they try to restore law and order in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Government are committed to helping all Palestinians, including the people of Gaza. In 2007-08, the UK has provided £31 million bilaterally to the Palestinians: £15 million through the UN Relief and Works Agency; £1 million to the International Committee for the Red Cross' work in the West Bank and Gaza; and £15 million through the Temporary International Mechanism.

### Russia: Elections

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received representations on the conduct of the recent elections to the State Duma in Russia; and if he will make a statement. [172380]

**David Miliband:** A number of parliamentarians have expressed concern to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about the conduct of the recent Duma elections in Russia. We share these concerns. In a statement of 3 December the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said that, if proved correct, allegations of electoral malpractice would suggest that the elections were neither free nor fair.

It is deeply disappointing that Russia prevented the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) specialist election monitoring body, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), from observing the elections. They would have provided expert, independent election monitoring. At the OSCE Ministerial Council in Madrid immediately prior to the elections, my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, Jim Murphy, said,

> "we regret that ODIHR has recently faced a number of unprecedented restrictions and bureaucratic obstacles to observing the Russian Duma elections".

It is vital that the Russian Central Election Commission urgently investigates all allegations of electoral abuses and that the Russian government puts in place systems to ensure that the presidential elections in March 2008 will be transparent and democratic.

### Tristan da Cunha: Viral Diseases

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government has offered Tristan da Cunha following the outbreak of an acute virus on the island. [172141]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** A flu outbreak on Tristan da Cunha has, in turn, triggered a rise in the cases of asthma on the island. Those affected are receiving treatment. The island has enough current stocks of the necessary drugs for this not to be an emergency situation now. But the isolation of the island, which has no airport and is a minimum of six days by sea from South Africa, makes supplying the island with further stocks difficult.

Following close liaison with the administrator on Tristan da Cunha, the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Defence and others, however, are making arrangements to provide an additional supply of drugs in advance of the next regular ship's visit to the island at the end of January 2008. We hope to be able to deliver these supplies to the island on a Royal Navy vessel around 15 December.

### Turkey-UK Strategic Partnership Agreement

**Mr. O'Hara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Turkey-UK Strategic Partnership Agreement, what discussions were held with the Cyprus government on those parts of the agreement that refer to Cyprus prior to its signing; what his definition is of high level contacts with Turkish Cypriot authorities; what his policy is on *(a)* the engagement of TRNC universities with the Bologna Process, *(b)* the right of Turkish Cypriots to representation in the European Parliament and *(c)* direct commercial, economic, political and cultural contact between the UK, EU and Turkish Cypriots; and if he will make a statement. [171475]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Strategic Partnership document reflects the breadth of co-operation between the UK and Turkish governments, with a focus on issues of importance to all EU partners. It is also intended to promote an objective, shared by the UK and Cyprus, of ensuring that Turkey meets all of its obligations towards the EU, including full normalisation of relations with its neighbours, and implementation of the Ankara agreement protocol. As an EU partner, the UK is firmly committed to holding Turkey to the stringent accession criteria already in place. We will continue to engage with Turkey at the most senior levels in order to achieve this.

The UK/Turkey Strategic Partnership does not represent a change in our policy towards the government of Cyprus. As such, there were no discussions with Cyprus prior to its signing.

I made it clear in my written ministerial statement on 7 November, *Official Report*, columns 5-6WS that the UK does not recognise the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", and that nothing in the UK/Turkey Strategic Partnership represents a change to this policy. We do, however, have regular contacts with the Turkish Cypriot community on a range of issues, most importantly, encouraging them to play a full part in the UN settlement process.

Officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in contact with Turkish Cypriot academics on how to raise Turkish Cypriot educational standards. These contacts have sought to promote an exchange of ideas between educational establishments on practical issues. The aim is to ensure Turkish Cypriot universities are able to maintain standards comparable with those institutions that are members of the Bologna process.

Turkish Cypriots are European citizens. Our preferred means to enfranchise them would be a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem that enables them to elect representatives to the European Parliament in the normal way. In the absence of a settlement, we welcome interest shown by Turkish Cypriots in the European Parliament; and by European parliamentarians in the Turkish Cypriot community—not least through oversight of the implementation of the Aid Regulation by the Commission.

The EU made a commitment in April 2004, reiterated in January 2007, to

> "end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community and facilitate the reunification of Cyprus"

with

> "particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island and on improving contact between the two communities and with the EU".

We fully support these objectives.

**Mr. O'Hara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of the Turkey-UK Strategic Partnership Agreement that refer to contact with Turkish Cypriots on (a) UK policy on the status of the TRNC and (b) perceptions of UK policy in (i) Cyprus, (ii) Turkey and (iii) the EU; and if he will make a statement. [171476]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I have made it clear in my written ministerial statement on 7 November, *Official Report*, columns 5-6WS, that we do not recognise the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", and that nothing in the UK/Turkey Strategic Partnership represents a change to this policy. We do, however, maintain regular contacts with the Turkish Cypriot community on a range of issues, most importantly, encouraging them to play a full part in the UN settlement process

Our priority towards Cyprus remains full support for the implementation of the UN's 8 July agreement leading to a comprehensive and durable settlement. We also support the EU's efforts to

> "end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community and facilitate the reunification of Cyprus".

We shall continue to take every effort to build and strengthen our relations with Cyprus and take forward common goals, including reunification of the island, and Turkish membership of the EU.

**Mr. O'Hara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his Turkish counterpart prior to signing the Turkey-UK Strategic Partnership Agreement on *(a)* immigration from Turkey to Cyprus and *(b)* reducing the Turkish military presence in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [171477]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK/Turkey Strategic Partnership Agreement focuses on the long-term strategic objectives between Turkey and the UK. During the recent meeting between my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister pressed the Turkish Prime Minister to support the UN process and work towards a Cyprus settlement. Our policy has always been to encourage all parties, including Turkey, to play a full part in the UN settlement process.

Security and immigration are core issues that will ultimately need to be addressed in the course of substantive negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement. We continue to support the 8 July process and hope that genuine negotiations can start as soon as possible. We do believe, however, that a reduction in the number of Turkish troops will help build trust on the island.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Director of Public Prosecutions

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Solicitor-General what process was followed in the appointment of the Director of Public Prosecutions; where the post was advertised; how many persons applied for the post; how many were short-listed for interview; whether consideration was given to a candidate's political views; how each was appraised; what criteria were adopted for each candidate; how many candidates were rejected; and if she will make a statement. [172473]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Director of Public Prosecutions was appointed by the then Attorney-General in 2003. He was unanimously recommended for the post by a panel which was chaired by the then First Civil Service Commissioner and also comprised two permanent secretaries and a serving Appeal Court judge. The post was advertised in the national media and a firm of executive search consultants was engaged. Sixteen applications were considered and three candidates were interviewed. Ken Macdonald QC was identified as the best candidate for his experience, his leadership qualities and vision. Candidates' political views were not a relevant consideration.

### Frigates: Romania

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Solicitor-General with reference to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 867W, on frigates: Romania, what the status is of the investigation. [172029]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Serious Fraud Office is investigating alleged offences involving BAE Systems plc. Further comment cannot be made for cases currently under investigation.

### Martin Allen

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Solicitor-General for what reason the Crown Prosecution Service took the decision that it was not in the public interest to proceed with the prosecution of Martin Allen. [172357]

**The Solicitor-General:** In order to commence a prosecution, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) applies a two-stage test. First, there has to be sufficient evidence for there to be a realistic prospect of conviction. Secondly, if there is sufficient evidence, it has to be in the public interest to prosecute. A prosecution will normally take place unless there are public interest factors tending against a prosecution which clearly outweigh those tending in favour of a prosecution.

Having thoroughly reviewed the available evidence, the CPS concluded that there was sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction against Mr. Allen for a number of criminal offences, but that there were a number of public interest factors against a prosecution, which outweighed those in favour.

A comprehensive list of common public interest factors for and against prosecution can be found in the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

In this case, matters relating to Mr. Allen's health and the surrounding circumstances were significant in deciding that a prosecution was not in the public interest. It would not be appropriate to give further details, as this would breach confidentiality.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Solicitor-General what *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* recommendations the Crown Prosecution Service received from counsel before taking the decision whether to prosecute Martin Allen; and if she will make a statement. [172358]

**The Solicitor-General:** An advice file was submitted by the Metropolitan Police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in September 2005. As part of its review, the CPS requested advice from counsel on what, if any, criminal offences had been committed by Mr. Allen.

In October 2005, the CPS received counsel's advice. Counsel concluded (assuming that a number of facts could be proved) that there may be sufficient evidence to charge Mr. Allen with three offences: one alleging forgery, one alleging the use of forged documents and one alleging criminal damage. Counsel's advice was based upon the prosecution being able to prove a number of facts. In relation to two of those facts, counsel made suggestions as to how they might be proved.

Following an extensive and complex investigation, in March 2007, the CPS concluded that there was sufficient evidence to prosecute Mr. Allen for three offences. However, having considered the public interest factors in favour of a prosecution and those against, the CPS concluded that the factors against a prosecution outweighed those in favour. Accordingly, the Metropolitan Police were advised that a prosecution was not required in the public interest.

### Prisoners Learning and Skills Unit

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Solicitor-General what resources have been provided to the Prisoners Learning and Skills Unit since its formation; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of its work; and if she will make a statement. [172302]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The resources provided to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' Offenders Learning and Skills Unit (OLSU), and its predecessors, since the transfer of offender learning and skills, in 2001, are as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Budget (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 57 |
| 2002-03 | 73 |
| 2003-04 | 116 |
| 2004-05 | 126 |
| 2005-06 | 151 |
| 2006-07 | 156 |
| 2007-08 | 144 |

These totals include funding for prison libraries, salaries for heads of learning and skills in prisons, and capital funding.

The OLSU has been effective in raising the profile of the skills and employment agenda for offenders in custody and in the community. The 2005 Green Paper "Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment" and the follow-up "Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps" (2006) documents have set out a clear agenda for action for the strong partnership between the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Work and Pensions.

### Racial Violence

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* charges and *(b)* convictions there were for incitement to racial hatred in each of the last 10 years. [170584]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General's office keeps data on prosecutions under Part III of the Public Order Act 1986, relating to offences concerning conduct intended to, or likely to, stir up racial hatred. The following table captures the relevant AGO data for the period 1997 to 2007 inclusive. The AGO statistics are recorded by reference to the year in which each case was referred to the Crown Prosecution Service by the police, rather than the year in which an offender was charged or eventually convicted.

| | *Number of persons charged* | *Number of persons convicted* | *Other outcome*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 7 | 4 | 1A,1D,1 stayed |
| 1998 | 0 | 0 | — |
| 1999 | 5 | 3 | 1A,1D |
| 2000 | 6 | 5 | 2A,1 D |
| 2001 | 2 | 1 | 1D |
| 2002 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 2003 | 8 | 7 | 1D |
| 2004 | 8 | 3 | 2A,2O, 1 died |
| 2005 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 2006 | 3 | 3 | — |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | — |
| Total | 44 | 29 | 15 |

[1] Key to abbreviations:
A = acquitted
D = dropped
O = ongoing

## WALES

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173492]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office always seeks to use low energy products and currently uses low voltage, clear multifunctional lights for decorations.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173512]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office uses both real trees and artificial trees. Its real trees are obtained from sustainable resources, via the Ministry of Justice, which also provides the facility for disposal and recycling of the trees.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result. [172268]

**Mr. Hain:** Information prior to 2004 was not held in this format and can be only provided at disproportionate cost.

| | *Miles* | *$CO_2$ tonnes* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 12,270 | 2.9 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 676 | 0.2 |

In 2006-07 all air travel carbon emissions were offset using PURE Trust as recommended through DEFRA.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many miles he and other Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172573]

**Mr. Hain:** In the last 12 months Wales Office Ministers have travelled 813 miles with an estimated carbon emissions of 0 4 tonnes $CO_2$.

The Wales Office will be offsetting all carbon emissions from air travel for 2007-08.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172436]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office follows the Ministry of Justice procurement policy.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Equal Pay

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of any pay gap between male and female staff in the Government Equalities Office. [171377]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: Since the formation of the Government Equalities Office in summer 2007, no assessment has been made. However, as a matter of good practice, we will consider pay issues once the terms and conditions of the new office have been finalised.

### Ethnic Minorities

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what proportion of staff in the Government Equalities Office are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* black and minority ethnic male and *(d)* black and minority ethnic female. [171378]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: Following the announcement of the establishment in summer 2007 of the Government Equalities Office, staff transferred from the Communities and Local Government. The following data do not include a number of staff who have recently joined the office.

These figures also incorporate staff numbers from the Women's National Commission.

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Male | 40 |
| *(b)* Female | 60 |
| *(c)* BME male | 8 |
| *(d)* BME female | 15 |

### IPPR: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what funding the Commission for Equality and Human Rights has provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Ltd., in relation to community cohesion, in the last 24 months, and for what projects. [171611]

**Barbara Follett:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission (the Commission) has awarded one contract to IPPR for the supply of a series of stakeholder events in London, Manchester and Edinburgh. These events were held on 20 July 2007, 23 July 2007 and 11 September 2007. This contract amounted to £25,549.06. No funding has been provided to IPPR Ltd in relation to community cohesion.

The roundtable events were planned to enable the Commission to explore with stakeholders their views on a range of equalities and human rights public policy issues. Because of the Commission's remit and mandate, community cohesion will have been discussed at these events, along with other equality and human rights areas.

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation: Noise

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on aircraft noise *(a)* at Heathrow airport and *(b)* in the surrounding London boroughs in each year since 1997. [169973]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Noise exposure contours at Heathrow are prepared for the Department by the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) noise modelling experts and are reported annually, together with maps indicating the noise impacts on the surrounding area. The CAA has also produced a report, 'Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates for Heathrow Airport', as part of our current consultation 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport'. These documents are all available on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk) along with information on aircraft noise at night, which informed consultation last year on night flying restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

### Cycling: Accidents

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents there were involving cyclists in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire in each year since 2000. [173397]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedal cycle in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire in each year since 2000 is shown in the table.

| | *Number of accidents* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Ribble Valley constituency*[1] | *Lancashire county council* |
| 2000 | 17 | 511 |
| 2001 | 33 | 509 |
| 2002 | 19 | 450 |
| 2003 | 18 | 422 |
| 2004 | 18 | 456 |
| 2005 | 24 | 469 |
| 2006 | 29 | 414 |

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

### Departmental Official Visits

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* short and *(b)* long haul flights were taken by Ministers and officials in her Department in each of the last five years. [170717]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code", the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers".

### London City Airport

**Derek Conway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions her Department has had with the London Borough of Bexley planning authority on the impact of an increase in the number of aircraft arriving at and departing from London City Airport on the vector path over that borough; [172243]

(2) what discussions her Department has had with the relevant planning authorities on increasing the number of aircraft arriving at and departing from London City Airport; [172244]

(3) if she will place in the Library copies of exchanges between her Department and the London Borough of Newham on proposals to increase the number of aircraft arriving at and departing from London City Airport. [172245]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** No such discussions have taken place. The 2003 White Paper "The Future of Air Transport" recognised that the airport served a niche business market and was likely to demonstrate steady growth. In principle, the Government support its development, subject to relevant environmental considerations.

The White Paper does not itself authorise or preclude any particular development, but sets out a policy framework that will guide decisions on future planning applications. Ultimately, it is for airport owners and operators to bring forward proposals for airport development in the normal way, through the statutory land-use planning system.

Furthermore, Ministers have a quasi-judicial role in the planning process with regard to transport-related applications raised on appeal. It would, therefore, be prejudicial for Ministers to comment on, or discuss, matters that are subject to a planning application and may come before a planning inquiry.

### Network Rail

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to benchmark the performance of Network Rail. [170743]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), as the independent regulator, undertakes extensive benchmarking of Network Rail's performance. It has recently benchmarked Network Rail's asset management against a range of international comparators and is in the process of benchmarking Network Rail's costs against international railways. Network Rail also carries out internal benchmarking.

### Railways: Finance

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total funding commitment from the public purse is for *(a)* Crossrail, *(b)* the Manchester Rail Hub and *(c)* the improvement to the trans-Pennine crossrail links in each of the next five years. [165992]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The public funding commitment in each of the next five years for Crossrail, from the Department for Transport and Transport for London, is set out in the following table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 500 |
| 2009-10 | 694 |
| 2010-11 | 1,052 |
| 2011-12 | 1,410 |
| 2012-13 | 2,049 |

The Government have set out in broad terms in the High Level Output Specification (HLOS), published in July this year, the additional passenger capacity it intends should be provided for the cities of Manchester and Leeds, and for trans-Pennine links. The Department for Transport is in discussion with Network Rail and the train operating companies about how best to add the improvements to the local and regional Manchester train services on to the committed December 2008 West Coast service enhancements for Manchester. In addition, a number of Manchester station improvements are being developed.

Network Rail are about to undertake a feasibility study to identify how best to address future rail capacity issues through Manchester. This is in response to the priority attached by the three Northern regions to providing additional passenger and freight capacity through Manchester to support economic growth across the north as a whole.

The Department is also actively considering the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities' bid for the Transport Innovation Fund.

It is too early at this stage to forecast the likely costs of the Manchester Rail Hub and the trans-Pennine rail links.

### Rolling Stock

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on the Competition Commission's investigation into rail rolling stock companies. [170737]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has spent £1,675,287.63 on external advice relating to the Competition Commission's investigation into rail rolling stock companies, between 2005-06 and 2007-08.

### Rolling Stock: Procurement

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to use double decker trains on the rail network. [170756]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department considered with industry the use of double decker trains as an option for increasing capacity in preparation for issuing the recent White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway". The conclusions are presented in a report "Preliminary Evaluation of Double Deck and Extra Long Train Operations" prepared by Network Rail and published on the Department's website. They suggest that the constraints of the UK network make double decker trains less cost-effective than other options and that this is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future.

### Southeastern Railway Company: Franchises

**Derek Conway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library the correspondence between her Department and the Southeastern Railway Company that resulted in the Department's derogation from the operating franchise agreement enabling the company to increase fares from Sidcup and Albany Park stations in excess of the Retail Price Index plus 3 per cent. formula previously in place. [172590]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I have arranged for the relevant documents to be placed in the Library.

### Speed Limits: Cameras

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the merits of erecting speed limit signs alongside signs indicating the presence of speed cameras in terms of road safety; and if she will make a statement. [172803]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We want speed camera enforcement to be highly visible and drivers to be made fully aware of the presence of cameras and the speed limit on the road. The Department's guidance on the use of speed cameras therefore already encourages that speed limit and camera warning signs should be co-located where permitted and practicable. Furthermore for fixed cameras the guidance encourages the speed limit sign and camera sign to be visible to the driver in the same view as the camera.

### Stonehenge

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on consultation on the Stonehenge by-pass. [173091]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: The Highways Agency is currently collating this information and will place it in the House Libraries when the House returns from Christmas recess in January.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Community Support Officers

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in assessing the Police Service of Northern Ireland's business case for police community support officers; and what the expected timeframe is for this process. [164388]

**Paul Goggins:** The Police Service of Northern Ireland's business case for police community support officers has been approved.

The timing of the introduction of PCSOs depends on wider financial and operational considerations and is a matter for the Chief Constable and the Policing Board to determine.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ACP Countries: EU External Trade

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the policy of the Government is on the end of the EU-African, Caribbean and Pacific countries sugar protocol; and what steps the Government plans to take to ensure that producers in developing countries do not experience hardship from the end to the Protocol. [172989]

**Mr. Thomas:** The ending of the sugar protocol (SP) must be seen in the wider context of the 'Everything but Arms' agreement with the least developed countries, the economic partnership agreements (EPAs) with the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the common agricultural policy (CAP) sugar reforms in the EC. The EPA offers all ACP countries the opportunity to export, in the medium term, sugar duty free and quota free to the EC. For the UK, improving access to the EC market for all ACP countries is an important requirement to ensure that EPAs live up to their potential to be tools for development.

We recognise that the CAP sugar reforms and the end of the SP will present challenges for many of the 18 ACP countries that are signatory to the SP. We have always been clear that such countries require transitional assistance in order to adapt their economies to face the challenges. As a result of our lobbying, the European Commission has made available €1.284 billion over the period of 2006-13 directly from its budget. The 18 signatory countries will all benefit from this transitional assistance and they will have to draw up a national action plan to show how they will spend their allocation. DFID provided financial support totalling £200,000 to the six Caribbean countries that are part of the ACP-SP to help them draw up their national action plans.

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times on average individual members of his Department's staff based in the provincial reconstruction team in Lashkar Gah left the team's compound other than by air in each of the last six months. [172129]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID has one member of staff, a development adviser, based in the provincial reconstruction team. Over the last six months, the development adviser has left the provincial reconstruction team compound an average of 12-15 times per month by road for meetings and visits within Lashkar Gah.

### Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to work with authorities in Bangladesh to minimise the impact of future natural disasters. [170977]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK has been working in Bangladesh on Disaster Risk Reduction for a number of years. After the devastating cyclone that struck Bangladesh in 1991, killing 140,000 people, the UK supported the building of cyclone shelters and shelter houses. We have committed £6 million to the Government of Bangladesh's (GoB) Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)—which includes work on practical ways to help people cope with more frequent and severe disasters. This is a five year programme (2004-09) focused on improving disaster management—shifting from conventional responses and relief to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture.

The UK is also developing a new climate change programme to continue to build GoB's capacity to mainstream climate change in its developmental planning, and effectively engage both domestically and internationally on climate change issues. The programme will take forward the second phase of the successful Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, as well as addressing other gaps—such as national research and modelling, and adaptation planning within vulnerable sectors (eg water resources, agriculture).

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each civil service grade are employed by his Department. [172737]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development (DFID) employs both home civil servants (HCS) and locally engaged staff (known as staff appointed in country or SAIC), who work in our more than 60 overseas offices. SAIC are not civil servants. They are employed on local terms and conditions of service, but within the same broad grading structure.

Gender data are supplied by staff on a voluntary basis. The numbers who have chosen not to provide this information are shown as N/D ("not declared"). The following table shows the numbers by gender and grade as at the end of November 2007.

| | *HCS* | | | *SAIC* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Men* | *Women* | *Total* | *Men* | *Women* | *N/D* | *Total* |
| SCS | 61 | 32 | 93 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| A1 | 153 | 83 | 236 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| A2 | 232 | 217 | 449 | 19 | 18 | 4 | 41 |
| A2(L) | 56 | 71 | 127 | 38 | 35 | 5 | 78 |
| B1D | 30 | 42 | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| B1 | 142 | 115 | 257 | 33 | 50 | 10 | 93 |
| B2 | 101 | 147 | 248 | 82 | 117 | 25 | 224 |
| C1 | 69 | 141 | 210 | 78 | 143 | 25 | 246 |
| C2 | 14 | 11 | 25 | 58 | 17 | 3 | 78 |
| C3 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 37 | 9 | 1 | 47 |
| C4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| D1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 21 | 0 | 9 | 30 |
| D2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| D4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 858 | 859 | 1,717 | 383 | 394 | 82 | 859 |

n/a = not applicable

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171406]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development (DFID) employs both home civil servants (HCS) and locally engaged staff (known as staff appointed in country or SAIC), who work in more than 60 overseas offices. SAIC are employed on local terms and conditions. Salaries paid to SAIC vary from country to country to reflect conditions in the local labour markets.

DFID's HCS and SAIC workforce is structured around a grade hierarchy, rather than by salary band. There are numerous job titles and roles that fall within each grade, covering administrative, technical and advisory staff, and it is not therefore possible to assign staff numbers to each title or role.

As of the end of November 2007, the number of staff by grade and those as a proportion of the total are as shown in the following tables.

| *Grade* | *Home civil servants* | *Staff appointed in country* | *Total* | *Percentage of total by grade* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCS | 93 | 0 | 93 | 3.6 |
| A1 | 236 | 4 | 240 | 9.3 |
| A2 | 449 | 41 | 490 | 19.0 |
| A2(L) | 127 | 78 | 205 | 8.0 |
| B1D | 72 | 0 | 72 | 2.8 |
| B1 | 257 | 93 | 350 | 13.6 |
| B2 | 248 | 224 | 472 | 18.3 |
| C1 | 210 | 246 | 456 | 17.7 |
| C2 | 25 | 78 | 103 | 4.0 |
| C3 | n/a | 47 | 47 | 1.8 |
| C4 | n/a | 3 | 3 | 0.1 |
| D1 | n/a | 30 | 30 | 1.2 |
| D2 | n/a | 10 | 10 | 0.4 |
| D3 | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| D4 | n/a | 5 | 5 | 0.2 |
| Total | 1,717 | 859 | 2,576 | 100 |

n/a= not applicable

*(a)* There are separate bonus structures for staff in the Senior Civil Service (SCS) and those at other grades. All bonus payments are non-consolidated for pay purposes, and non-pensionable. The approximate proportion of the overall pay bill allocated to bonus payments made to HCS in 2006-07 was 1.4 per cent.

*(b)* The majority of HCS are eligible to join the civil service pensions schemes, and retirement benefits are paid in accordance with the rules of those schemes. Further information is available from the civil service pensions website, at

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

SAIC are not eligible to join the civil service pensions schemes. Any superannuation arrangements for this group are determined locally, based on local practice and feasibility.

*(c)* All staff are entitled to seek reimbursement of necessary out-of-pocket expenses. HCS based overseas are also entitled to receive an allowance to compensate for any additional cost of everyday goods and services, which ensures that their income has the same purchasing power as in the UK.

*(d)* The payment of expenses is administered independently by each of our departments and offices overseas, and the total value of those payments incurred in the last 10 years could only be obtained and collated at disproportionate cost.

*(e)* The average age of our employees, the *(f)* number of women and men, and *(g)* ethnic composition is shown in the following tables, but age, gender and ethnicity are all provided by staff on a voluntary basis. The numbers who have chosen not to provide this information is shown as "N/D"—not declared.

*Home Civil Servants*

| | | *Gender* | | *Ethnicity* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Average Age* | *Men* | *Women* | *Asian* | *Black* | *Mixed* | *White* | *N/D* | *Other* | *Total* |
| SCS | 47 | 61 | 32 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 69 | 16 | 2 | 93 |

*Home Civil Servants*

| | | Gender | | Ethnicity | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Average Age* | *Men* | *Women* | *Asian* | *Black* | *Mixed* | *White* | *N/D* | *Other* | *Total* |
| A1 | 47 | 153 | 83 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 188 | 32 | 4 | 236 |
| A2 | 40 | 232 | 217 | 17 | 6 | 10 | 301 | 111 | 4 | 449 |
| A2(L) | 44 | 56 | 71 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 93 | 21 | 2 | 127 |
| B1D | 29 | 30 | 42 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 26 | 40 | 0 | 72 |
| B1 | 42 | 142 | 115 | 14 | 8 | 10 | 192 | 31 | 2 | 257 |
| B2 | 41 | 101 | 147 | 12 | 11 | 4 | 186 | 32 | 3 | 248 |
| C1 | 45 | 69 | 141 | 4 | 16 | 4 | 144 | 40 | 2 | 210 |
| C2 | 52 | 14 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 25 |
| Total | 42 | 858 | 859 | 64 | 56 | 36 | 1,216 | 326 | 19 | 1,717 |

*Staff appointed-in-country*[1]

| | | Gender | | Ethnicity | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Average Age* | *Men* | *Women* | *Asian* | *Black* | *Mixed* | *White* | *N/D* | *Other* | *Total* |
| A1 | 51 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| A2 | 42 | 19 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 0 | 41 |
| A2(L) | 40 | 38 | 35 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 77 | 0 | 78 |
| B1 | 39 | 33 | 50 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 86 | 1 | 93 |
| B2 | 38 | 82 | 117 | 25 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 216 | 0 | 224 |
| C1 | 36 | 78 | 143 | 25 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 241 | 0 | 246 |
| C2 | 39 | 58 | 17 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 76 | 0 | 78 |
| C3 | 42 | 37 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 45 | 1 | 47 |
| C4 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| D1 | 45 | 21 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| D2 | 35 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| D4 | 34 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 39 | 383 | 394 | 82 | 9 | 13 | 3 | 832 | 2 | 859 |

[1] 86 SAIC have not declared their age. The average age by grade for this group has been calculated only for those who have.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171533]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID operates two separate bonus schemes: one for the senior civil service (SCS) and another for staff below the SCS.

The following two tables give the total value of bonuses awarded to DFID staff in each of the last five years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 377,579 |
| 2003-04 | 475,101 |
| 2004-05 | 497,350 |
| 2005-06 | 892,965 |
| 2006-07 | 1,062,233 |

DFID has no agencies to which this question applies.

## Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibits the assignment of debt. [172335]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID's general terms and conditions used to engage the private sector in the procurement of goods and services do not make specific reference to the prohibition of assignment of debt. However, our standard contract for services prohibits the consultant from assigning any of its rights under the contract without the prior written consent of DFID.

Procurement Agents who place contracts for goods on behalf of DFID also include a standard provision in their contracts with suppliers which prohibits the assignment of any rights under the contract without prior agreement.

## Departmental Research

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to improve research methods and practices in his Department. [170979]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID formed the Central Research Department (CRD) in 2003 to improve the management and delivery of its long-term research programmes. DFID's research is guided by a Research Funding Framework that sets out what DFID will fund and how. Programmes have clear thematic priorities (for example, climate adaptation) and emphasis is placed on measuring outcomes and impact. Research methods are assessed for rigour, particularly at the start of the programme and through regular reviews. These are usually led by eminent researchers. Advisory groups provide independent and quality advice to the research programmes.

Improvements have been made to the way research is funded. For example, bilateral research is mainly funded through Research Programme Consortia

(RPC), which are collaborations between research institutions world-wide. Some research is funded through multi-donor and global initiatives (for example, Medicines for Malaria Venture) to improve efficiency and effectiveness. DFID also works with other donors and UK research councils to improve efficiency and scientific rigour, and DFID is supporting the new UK Collaborative on Development Sciences, which brings together UK funders and stakeholders to improve the co-ordination of development sciences research in the UK. DFID has also appointed a Chief Scientific Adviser to ensure the Department has a clear vision for the role of science and innovation in development.

DFID is placing more emphasis on making its research accessible. For example DFID has a research portal (www.research4development.info), which allows free access to information about DFID's research.

### Poverty

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development* how much the Government has spent on research into poverty reduction since 1997. [170978]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID's Central Research Department spending on research on key development policies and technologies over the past three years is shown as follows. Comparable figures for earlier years cannot be obtained without incurring a disproportionate cost. These figures exclude spending on research programmes funded through country offices or via multilateral organisations.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 88.6 |
| 2005-06 | 101.7 |
| 2006-07 | 112.0 |

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Board Secretariat

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she plans to relocate the Secretariat to the Olympic Board from Canary Wharf to Whitehall; and if she will make a statement. [163718]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]*: Prior to September 2007, the secretariat function for the Olympic Board was undertaken by the Olympic Programme Support Unit (OPSU). While OPSU were situated in Canary Wharf, they were based for administrative purposes within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

In September 2007, this secretariat function moved to the Government Olympic Executive, situated and based at DCMS.

The decision to replace OPSU was taken to improve the quality of secretariat support being provided to the Olympic Board.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months. [171255]

**Margaret Hodge:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1595W.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171268]

**Margaret Hodge:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1365W.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are employed by his Department, broken down by civil service grade. [172686]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** A table of results showing the number of staff the Department for Culture, Media and Sport employs, broken down by gender and civil service grade are as follows:

*Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), DCMS employees, by gender and grade*

| *Grade* | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|
| Permanent Secretary | 1 | 0 |
| SCS3 | 3 | 0 |
| SCS2 | 7 | 2 |
| SCS1 | 11 | 8 |
| SCS1A | 1 | 0 |
| Grade A(U) | 11 | 9 |
| Grade A | 56 | 38 |
| Grade B | 92 | 78 |
| Grade HEOD | 8 | 7 |
| Grade C | 59 | 63 |
| Grade D | 19 | 31 |
| All employees | 268 | 236 |

*Key:*
Grade A = Former Grades 6/7
Grade B = Former SEO/HEO/HEO(D) and equivalent grades
Grade HEOD = Fast Stream
Grade C = Former EO and equivalent grades
Grade D = Former AO/AA and equivalent grades.

### Digital Broadcasting

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many national digital radio stations *(a)* there are and *(b)* he expects there to be by the end of 2008. [171655]

**James Purnell:** There are currently 19 national DAB digital radio stations. A second national commercial multiplex, awarded by Ofcom to 4 Digital Group, is planned to launch in 2008 with a further eight services. We do not hold figures on the total number of national stations available on other digital platforms.

### Digital Radio Working Group

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff will be seconded from his Department to the Digital Radio Working Group. [171654]

**James Purnell:** There are no plans for any staff to be seconded formally to the Digital Radio Working Group. Current plans are for around 1.5 members of staff (full time equivalent) to provide support to the group, although this may change as the work of the group develops.

### Leisure Facilities

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many local authorities have applied for funding from his Department to help fund local leisure facilities in each of the last five years. [173457]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The only direct DCMS funding stream, to help local authorities fund leisure facilities, over the stated time period has been PFI Credits.

In the last five years, we have held three bidding rounds for PFI Credits under which local authorities could apply for funding in the form of PFI Credits. A table showing the number of applications we received, for each of the bidding rounds, for local leisure facilities are as follows:

| | *Number of applications* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 11 |
| 2003 | 12 |
| 2005 | 17 |

### Licensed Premises

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish a comparison of average costs for licensed premises incurred under *(a)* the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 in the first year after the Act came into force and *(b)* the provisions of the Licensing Act 1964 in the 12 months before the Licensing Act 2003 came into force. [166216]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It is not possible to calculate a meaningful average total cost of the licensing regime for each licensed premises as the costs of compliance with licence conditions are not recorded and will be specific to each individual premises. In addition, not all temporary event notices are given by licensed premises and not all personal licences costs are incurred by licensed premises.

However, a recent exercise to calculate the administrative burdens of the Licensing Act 2003 using the standard cost model method of measurement has estimated that the 2003 Act imposes an annual administrative burden of approximately £86 million per year. The estimated total cost of the old licensing regimes was approximately £183 million per year. This included the costs of the Licensing Act 1964, but also the costs of the other relevant regimes including those relating to the licensing of public entertainment and late night refreshment. The administrative burdens do not include the cost of transition, nor licence fees nor compliance with licence conditions.

### Licensing: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the cost of obtaining and maintaining a liquor licence under the Licensing Act 2003; what differences there are between this estimate and the estimate contained in the regulatory impact assessment presented with the Bill; and if he will make a statement. [166217]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The regulatory impact assessment which accompanied the Licensing Bill estimated that the annual compliance cost of a licence to sell alcohol under the new regime would be between £130-£5,760.

We have not sought to quantify the costs of the new regime on the same basis. However, our recent exercise to look at administrative costs under the new regime suggests that the system imposes a total annual burden of £86 million. This represents a savings of £97 million in administrative burdens over the old regimes. The administrative burdens do not include the cost of transition, nor licence fees nor compliance with licence conditions.

### Olympic Games 2012: Exercise

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect the London 2012 Olympic Games will have on levels of participation in physical activity; and over what period. [172078]

**James Purnell:** As set out in my speech to the Schools and Sports Partnerships conference on 28 November 2007, we believe that the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games will inspire a generation to take up sport.

The Government's aim is to get two million more people to be more active in sport and physical activity by 2012. This equates to a 1 per cent. per annum increase across sport and physical activity; equal to what the countries with the greatest success in increasing participation have achieved.

### Ticket Agents

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether the recommendations made in the Office of Fair Trading's report on Ticket Agents in the UK, that advertising should indicate where tickets can be purchased at face value, have been implemented; [172880]

(2) what his policy is on whether the Committee of Advertising Practice should amend its guidance so all non-broadcast event advertising is required to include the face value of the ticket, while indicating that additional fees may apply and could vary depending upon the sales channel and ticket seller used, in accordance with recommendations made in the Office of Fair Trading's report on Ticket Agents in the UK. [172881]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* Following the 2005 recommendations published by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) amended its guidance but did not require ticket face value and fees to be advertised. OFT complaint data from earlier this year suggest that this is not a particular problem for consumers. More recently, as a result of the implementation of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, the OFT has been working with the ASA Committee of Advertising Practice on reforms to its code of practice on non-broadcast media. The OFT views it as prudent to see the effect of the reformed code on advertising behaviour in the ticketing market before considering if further action is required.

## JUSTICE

### Cemeteries

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on making local authorities cover the cost of reinstatement of gravestones after they have been deemed unsafe through topple testing. [173515]

**Bridget Prentice:** None, other than my hon. Friend's correspondence on the matter which has recently been passed to me. However, I understand that some local authorities have decided, at their discretion, to incur the costs of making gravestones safe.

### Crime: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of crimes committed in Suffolk resulted in *(a)* a caution, *(b)* a fixed penalty notice and *(c)* a conviction in each of the last five years. [171680]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on the number of crimes recorded, cautions and penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued and convictions at all courts in Suffolk in each of the last five financial years is provided in the following table. Data are provided on a notifiable offence basis, i.e. offences notified to the Home Office.

It is not possible to track individual crimes through the criminal justice system to conclusion by way of a caution, PND or conviction. This is because crimes and offences brought to justice are counted and recorded differently. A crime and a resulting conviction may occur in different years, or in some instances one recorded crime may result in more than one person being convicted, or one person being convicted of more than one offence.

*Number of recorded crimes, convictions, cautions or penalty notices for disorder issued in Suffolk police force area, 2002-03 to 2006-07*

| *Financial year* | *Recorded crimes* | *Penalty notices for disorder*[1] | *Cautions*[2] | *Convictions* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 50,315 | — | 3,398 | 7,953 |
| 2003-04 | 53,443 | — | 3,997 | 9,149 |
| 2004-05 | 52,101 | 218 | 3,796 | 9,818 |
| 2005-06 | 52,831 | 520 | 4,326 | 10,084 |
| 2006-07 (provisional[4]) | 51,096 | 1,215 | 4,661 | 10,359 |

[1] Piloted in 2002 and introduced nationally in 2004. Notifiable PNDs relate to offences under Public Order Act 1986 Section 5: Theft and Criminal Damage.

[2] Includes reprimands and final warnings for juveniles.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] PND, cautions and convictions data for 2006-07 are provisional.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what Departmental budget items have been reclassified under the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review 2007; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [164493]

**Maria Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1139W.

### Judges

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what obligation is placed on sentencing judges to consider the possibility of assessment for ADHD and related conditions and a subsequent rehabilitation package as part of the sentencing process. [173536]

**Maria Eagle:** There is no statutory obligation for the court to consider an "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder" (ADHD) assessment upon sentencing. Nor is there a statutory obligation for a subsequent rehabilitation package as part of the sentencing process.

However, the Criminal Justice Act 2003 requires a court to consider a pre-sentence report (PSR) prior to sentencing. The purpose of the pre-sentence report is to assist the court in determining the most suitable method of dealing with an offender. There is a general obligation on the part of the court to determine the most appropriate sentence for the offence and the offender. The purpose of sentencing includes rehabilitation which the court may provide through supervision and treatment as needed.

In the case of young offenders, youth offender teams work closely with their child and adolescent mental health services colleagues to ensure that issues such as ADHD and related conditions are identified during the court process.

### Leeds Magistrates Court

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were employed at Leeds Magistrates court in each year since 1997; and how many staff are employed at the court. [171695]

**Maria Eagle:** Data on staff numbers at Leeds Magistrates court is not available for 1997. Since 1998 the following numbers of staff have been employed at Leeds Magistrates court:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| March 1998 | 167 |
| July 1999 | 176 |
| April 2000 | 178 |
| April 2001 | 164 |
| April 2002 | 176 |
| April 2003 | [1]137 (179) |
| April 2004 | 135 (177) |
| April 2005 | 133 (175) |
| April 2006 | 134 (176) |
| April 2007 | 129 (171) |

[1] The figure for April 2003 reflects the fact that in April 2002, 28 finance team members and 14 court enforcement officers transferred from the Magistrates court to the area collection and enforcement centre.

*Note:*

The figures in brackets give the estimated comparable staff numbers if the 42 had remained with the Magistrates court.

### Police Custody: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* police cells and *(b)* custody suites in each London borough were occupied by serving prisoners who had been given a custodial sentence at the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [169272]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prisoners held in police cells under Operation Safeguard are primarily adult male prisoners remanded in custody by the courts. Figures for the number of occasions convicted or remanded prisoners are held in police cells under Operation Safeguard are not held separately.

The operational protocol is that prisoners are held for one night. If prisoners are held in a police cell under Operation Safeguard on a Friday night they will remain in police custody until Monday morning or Tuesday if it is a bank holiday.

The Metropolitan police allocate places for Operation Safeguard across London boroughs each day from a central command suite. The number and location of places available is varied daily according to operational pressures.

### Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence under Section 61 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, in each year since the Section came into force, broken down by police force area; [172425]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence under provisions in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in each year since it came into force, broken down by relevant section. [172522]

**Mr. Straw:** Data showing the number of males and females proceeded against and found guilty in England and Wales, by police force area, under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 from 2000 to 2006 is in the table. My Department is unable to separate data for Section 61, as the data are not collected to that level of detail.

*Number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for offences under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Ac 2000, in England and Wales, 2000 to 2006*[1,2,3]

| | *2004* | | *2005* | | *2006* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| *Triable either way offences* [4,6] | | | | | | |
| *Greater Manchester* | | | | | | |
| Male | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| *Metropolitan police* | | | | | | |
| Male | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Total | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| *Sussex* | | | | | | |
| Male | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| *England and Wales (Triable either way offences)* | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Summary offences*[5,6] | | | | | | |
| *Greater Manchester* | | | | | | |
| Male | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| *Hertfordshire* | | | | | | |
| Male | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |

*Number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for offences under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Ac 2000, in England and Wales, 2000 to 2006*[1, 2, 3]

| | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| *Leicestershire* | | | | | | |
| Male | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Total | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| *Metropolitan police* | | | | | | |
| Male | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| Female | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Total | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| *Staffordshire* | | | | | | |
| Male | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Female | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Total | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | |
| Male | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Total | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| *England and Wales (Summary Offences)* | 8 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 4 |
| England and Wales—all offences | 10 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 6 |

[1] There were no prosecutions or convictions under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 between 2000 and 2003. Police force areas with no prosecutions or convictions are not shown in the table. Similarly, where no females have been prosecuted or convicted in certain areas, no female row is shown.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The following sections of the Act are triable either way offences:
43(7) Failing to deliver report of auditor removal/resignation
44(4) Making false statement to auditor
54(5) Fail to provide information about donation/donor to party
54(6) Agent failing to provide information to party about donor
56(3) and Sch.20 Registered party fail to return impermissible donation
56(3) and Sch.20 Treasurer fail to return impermissible donation
56(3) and Sch.20 Treasurer fail to return donation by unidentifiable donor
61(1) and Sch.20 Enter arrangement facilitating impermissible donation
61(1) and Sch.20 Act in furtherance of an arrangement facilitating impermissible donation
61(2)(a) and Sch.20 Give treasurer false information about donation
61(2)(b) and Sch.20 Withholld from treasurer false information about donation
65(4) and Sch.20 Fail to comply with donation reports requirements
66(5) and Sch.20 False declaration in donation report
68(5)(a) and Sch.20 Individual donor fail to report multiple small donations
68(5)(a) and Sch.20 Non-individual donor fail to report multiple small donations
68(5)(b) and Sch.20 Deliver out of time/complete report declaring multiple donations
68(5)(c) and Sch.20 Failure to declare multiple small donations
73(85) and Sch.20 Make false declaration of campaign expenditure

[5] The following sections of the Act are summary offences:
24(8) Political party treasurer convicted of offences
39 Making false statement to electoral commission
47(1)(a) Fail to deliver proper statement of accounts
47(1)(b) Fail to deliver statement of accounts before end of relevant period
65(3) and Sch.20 Treasurer fail to deliver donation report within 30 days
65(3) and Sch.20 Treasurer fail to deliver donation report within 7 days

[6] It is not possible to provide separate data for a particular section of the Act—for example section 61.

## Prisoners: Learning Disability

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is co-ordinating with other Departments to address the needs of offenders with learning difficulties and disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [172955]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP), part of the Department of Health, produced the document 'Positive Practice, Positive Outcomes; A handbook for Professionals in the Criminal Justice System working with offenders with learning disabilities' (CSIP, 2007). This set out the support that must be provided by the police, the courts, in prisons and on probation and was developed in collaboration with relevant Government agencies.

The Ministry of Justice is working alongside the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families, to ensure that the needs of young offenders are taken into account in the review of speech, language and communication needs which is being led by the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow).

The Learning and Skills Council, an NDPB associated with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families, co-commissions alongside NOMS education and skills provision in prisons and probation. This provision is delivered through contracts with education providers, which deliver such provision against requirements laid out in a key document—the Offender's Learning Journey—which includes particular requirements on meeting the needs of those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

## Prisoners: Speech Therapy

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many qualified speech and language therapists provided a service to the Prison Service in each year since 1997; [172960]

(2) how much the Government have invested in the provision of speech and language therapy to prisoners in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [173535]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is not held centrally. Speech and language therapy is commissioned by national health service primary care trusts (PCTs) in line with other health services for their communities, including those in prison or on probation, on the basis of comprehensive assessment of local need. Prisoners and young offenders all receive health screening on reception into prison as well as a general learning needs assessment.

The PCT commissioning model is bringing about results. For example, at Her Majesty's Young Offender Institution Hindley, following the local needs assessment process, Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health Trust are now providing two speech and language therapy sessions every week.

Five Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust has a specialist team which provides speech and language therapy, and art and music therapies, alongside more traditional interventions for mental health and psychological needs. This service is provided for two secure children's homes, two charitable institutions, and two independent providers.

For young offenders, the Department of Health will be extending the range of child and adolescent mental health services in the secure estate for children and young people. These additional services include speech and language therapy. To this end, £1.5 million new funding for new services has been invested by the Department of Health in 2007-08.

## Prisons: Staff

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what speech and learning disability awareness training is available to staff in prisons. [172961]

**Maria Eagle:** No specific training is delivered centrally to prison officers in identifying people with such difficulties but under Prison Service Order 2855, governors must ensure that procedures exist for prisoners to be able to disclose disability, including learning disabilities, both on reception and subsequently. Each prison must have a disability liaison officer to ensure that the needs of disabled prisoners are met.

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers have five or more passes at GCSE or equivalent at grades A to C. [173519]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of educational qualifications obtained by prison officers is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by asking local prisons to collate the information from individual staff files.

## Private Security Industry Act 2001

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions have been brought and *(b)* convictions obtained for offences under section 22 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. [167116]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

The licensing of individuals under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (PSIA) has been rolled out since 2004.

Section 22 creates offences connected with the making of false statements to the Security Industry Authority.

For each of the three years 2004, 2005 and 2006, there have been no prosecutions or convictions under section 22 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. The data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

There are a number of provisions under the PSIA and immigration legislation, under which proceedings can be taken in respect of offences by persons applying for SIA licences, or holding licences. Which provision would be appropriate in a particular case would depend on the circumstances of the case.

## Secure Custody: Children

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children in secure custody were awarded five passes at A* to C at GCSE in each of the last five years. [173542]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of GCSEs gained by all young people in custody is not collected centrally. The LSC report that young people under-18 in young offender institutions achieved 354 GCSEs A*-C in all subjects between 1 April 2007 and 30 September 2007. However this figure does not reflect all of the GCSEs achieved in juvenile custody because this does not include young people in secure children's homes, secure training centres, or private prisons. Also some of the young people in young offender institutions are still registered at schools and colleges and therefore any GCSEs that they achieve whilst in custody will be reflected in achievement figures of schools and colleges, rather than the figures reported by the LSC for those achieved in custody.

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children in secure custody were awarded five passes at GCSE in each of the last five years, broken down by subject and grade achieved. [173543]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of GCSEs gained by all young people in custody is not collected centrally. The LSC report that young people under-18 in young offender institutions achieved the following GCSEs from 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007:

Mathematics: 18 GCSE's at grades A* to C, and 91 below grade C;

English: 29 GCSEs at grades A* to C and 56 below grade C;

Other subjects: 307 GCSEs at grades A* to C and 162 below grade C.

Further breakdown is not available. Also this figure does not reflect all of the GCSEs achieved in juvenile custody because this does not include young people in Secure children's homes, secure training centres, or private prisons. Also some of the young people in young offender institutions are still registered at schools and colleges and therefore any GCSEs that they achieve whilst in custody will be reflected in achievement figures of schools and colleges, rather than the figures reported by the LSC for those achieved in custody.

### Young Offenders: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under 18-years-old were convicted for *(a)* vehicle crime, *(b)* domestic burglary and *(c)* robbery in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [173420]

**Mr. Hanson:** Data showing the number of people under 18-years-old convicted of vehicle crime, domestic burglary and robbery in Lancashire from 1997 to 2006 is in the following table.

*Number of persons aged under 18 found guilty at all courts for selected offences in the Lancashire police force area, 1997 to 2006*[1, 2]

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Burglary and aggravated burglary | 183 | 164 | 142 | 169 | 142 | 233 | 143 | 125 | 177 | 164 |
| Robbery | 72 | 42 | 50 | 52 | 54 | 75 | 62 | 53 | 52 | 79 |
| Vehicle theft[3] | 108 | 84 | 78 | 71 | 56 | 56 | 43 | 36 | 34 | 57 |

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes offences of theft of a vehicle and theft from a vehicle.

*Source:*

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benton Park View

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what costs were met by his Department for site services and maintenance at Benton Park View in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [168861]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Benton Park View site forms part of the Newcastle estate, a private finance initiative between Newcastle Estates Partnership (the landlord) and HMRC (the major government occupier). DWP occupies approximately 25 per cent. of the site under an agreement with HMRC and is charged on a pro rata basis for accommodation costs and services provided.

The cost to DWP for site services and maintenance (as detailed[1]) since April 2006 are as follows:

[1] Site services and maintenance include: rent, building maintenance, rates, cleaning, security, facilities management services and utilities.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 7,381,063.93 |
| 2007-08 | [1]7,155,401.50 |

[1] Forecast cost

### Children and Young People: Low Incomes

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many children in families of recipients of *(a)* income support, *(b)* income-based jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* the guaranteed credit part of pension credit are (i) eligible for and (ii) claiming free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available; [172401]

(2) how many people aged 16 to 18 years who receive income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance in their own right were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claiming free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available. [172402]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: I have been asked to reply.

The requested information is not available.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what formula will be used to determine his Department's share of the sale receipts when the Government offices site at Heyhouses Road, St. Annes is disposed of. [165773]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Financial gain may be generated by the expanded PRIME Contractor, Land Securities Trillium, from the sale of buildings which DWP return to them as surplus under the flexibility to vacate options in the contract. The sale prices over each financial year are pooled and compared to the Base Values listed in the contract as at 1 April 1998 (or at December 2003 for buildings covered by PRIME Expansion). Base Value is the price placed on a property, assuming vacant possession, at the start of the contract.

Properties can also attract a financial loss however, whereby the sale of the property and the associated costs of this are less than the Base Value. Any such losses are therefore offset against positive gains and any resulting net gain is shared 50:50 between the Department and LST.

Negative gains are offset against positive gains and any resulting net gain is shared 50:50 between the Department and Land Securities Trillium.

## Departmental Staff

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department and its predecessors *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171277]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information on the number of staff aged between 16 and 18 in the Department since its formation in 2001 is in the following table. Information is not held in this detail prior to September 2001.

Staff employed through an employment agency are not directly employed by the Department therefore no personal information is held in respect of these staff.

| | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| 30 September 2001 | 603 |
| 31 March 2002 | 908 |
| 31 March 2003 | 709 |
| 31 March 2004 | 412 |
| 31 March 2005 | 249 |
| 31 March 2006 | 169 |
| 31 March 2007 | 129 |

*Note:*
Numbers exclude temporary staff

The information regarding time off and funding to undertake "some form of training" for 16-18 year olds in the Department is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, it should be noted that all staff undertake mandatory training to perform their role within DWP.

## Departmental Travel

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171264]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Between November 2006 and October 2007 the Department for Work Pensions spent £11,650,293.00 on 1st class rail travel (including Eurostar journeys).

## Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163693][1]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The available information is contained in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *Number of staff disciplined for unsatisfactory attendance* | *Number of staff dismissed for unsatisfactory attendance* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 4,018 | 10 |
| 2006-07 | 6,393 | 36 |
| 2005-06 | 5,320 | 30 |
| 2004-05 | 1,563 | 8 |
| 2003-04 | 580 | 4 |

## Disability Discrimination Act 2005

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which executive agencies have responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. [172227]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 significantly amended and extended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, including by placing particular additional duties on public authorities.

It introduced a duty for public authorities not to discriminate against disabled people in the carrying out of their public functions. It also introduced a duty for public authorities to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people (the "Disability Equality Duty"). In addition, The Disability Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) Regulations 2005 (Statutory Instrument 2005/2966) as amended place specific duties on the public authorities listed in those regulations. The listed authorities include a Minister of the Crown or Government Department.

All Government Departments are responsible for ensuring that they and any executive agencies for which they are responsible meet the requirements of this legislation.

## Disabled: Access

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which central offices occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people. [166828]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Accessibility audits were commissioned in 2004 for all of the 1,191 buildings where my Department is major occupier. The resultant national programme of works to improve access for disabled people was completed in 2006. Central office buildings are included in the total of 1,191.

Although central data are held of the number of occupied buildings which are or are not considered to be fully accessible to disabled people, where there are access difficulties for disabled people, my Department makes appropriate reasonable adjustment to its arrangements for the recruitment and employment of staff as well as the services and requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

## Housing Benefit: Lone Parents

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect on numbers of housing benefit claims of transferring lone parents from income support to jobseeker's allowance. [170677]

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1. *[Official Report, 5th February 2008; Vol. 471, c. 5MC.]*

**Mr. Plaskitt:** No assessment has been made of the effect on numbers of housing benefit claims of transferring lone parents from income support to jobseeker's allowance.

Customers in receipt of either income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance are already passported on to full housing benefit.

### Incapacity Benefits and Jobseeker's Allowance

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people between the ages of *(a)* 18 to 25, *(b)* 25 to 45 and *(c)* 45 to 65 were in receipt of incapacity benefits in the latest period for which figures are available; [170529]

(2) how many people between the ages of *(a)* 18 to 25, *(b)* 25 to 45 and *(c)* 45 to 65 were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [170531]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the following table.

*Number of recipients by age, May 2007*

*Thousand*

| | *Incapacity benefits* | *Jobseeker's allowance* |
|---|---|---|
| 18-24 | 159.14 | 234.84 |
| 25-34 | 338.72 | 199.29 |
| 35-44 | 582.09 | 175.36 |
| 45-54 | 740.17 | 143.76 |
| 55-64 | 828.37 | 72.36 |
| 65 and over | 30.16 | — |

'—' = Nil or negligible.

*Notes:*

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Although in general incapacity benefit applies to people of working age, a small number of claimants are over state pension age.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

### Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165265]

**Mrs. McGuire:** On 9 January 2006, a contract was awarded by the Department for Work and Pensions to Opinion Leader Research to carry out a UK-wide public consultation on the Pension Commission's proposals to reform the UK's pension system. This involved the management and facilitation of a number of regional events, linked by satellite technology and involved 1,275 people; interactive on-line surveys; a detailed stakeholder toolkit for locally held debates; citizens advisory panels; and, resulting analysis for the National Pensions Day debate on 18 March 2006.

The contract was put to tender on 12 December 2005 to six companies on the DWP CIPHeR (consultants, interims, personnel and human resources) framework. Three valid responses were received. The cost of the contract totalled £999,180 (including VAT) and was awarded based on expertise and value for money. The contract started on 16 January 2006 and was completed on 31 May 2006.

The National Pensions Day debate generated significant coverage in the media and raised public awareness of pensions issues preparing the ground for the forthcoming publication of the May 2006 White Paper 'Security in Retirement towards a New Pensions System'.

On 25 January 2007 a second minor contract was awarded to Opinion Leader Research for the Pensions Communications Strategy—SCS (senior civil servant) Workshops for the provision of a facilitator. This contract went to tender on 10 January 2007 and ran from 29 January to 28 February 2007. The value of this contract was £3,055.00 (including VAT).

Following a robust evaluation of proposals received against each exercise, VfM decisions were made in accordance with pre-paid evaluation criteria that followed Government best practice procurement processes.

### Pensioners: Inflation

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment the Government has made of the projected impact of inflation on pensioners in each of the next three years. [170264]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Basic state pension, additional pension and graduated retirement benefit in payment are all generally uprated in April of each year by the retail price index in September of the previous year. Published departmental expenditure estimates assume this will continue in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology the Government use to calculate the impact of changes in the retail prices index on pensioners. [170265]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question which asked what methodology the Government uses to calculate the impact of the Retail Price Index on pensioners. I am replying in her absence. (170265)

Pensioners' retail price indices are calculated separately for one and two person households where the head of the household is retired (at least 65 years of age for men and 60 years or more for women) and economically inactive, and where at least three quarters of the household's income is from state benefits. The expenditure of these households is excluded from the main retail prices index (RPI). Other pensioner households are covered by the main RPI although separate indices are not calculated for them.

The price indicators used in the calculation of the pensioner indices are essentially the same as those used in the main RPI. Prices are collected for over 650 price indicators in around 150 locations across the UK. The detailed price indices for these indicators are combined together to form the overall pensioner indices using weights specific to the expenditure patterns of the two types of pensioner household.

Some categories of expenditure are excluded from the pensioner indices. These include canteen meals and housing costs, the latter because the price indicators used in the main RPI are not appropriate as pensioners are mostly cushioned against rises in housing costs by rebates. It would be technically difficult to compile separate house price indicator items for these households. Examples of other items that are excluded include NHS prescription, dental and eyesight test charges, none of which are paid by pensioners.

The pensioner indices are published quarterly.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate the Government has made of the impact of changing *(a)* food, *(b)* utility and *(c)* transport prices on pensioners over each of the next three years. [170266]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Pensioner benefits are annually uprated, in the main, by the retail price index or in the case of the guarantee credit by the average earnings index. The RPI is based on a basket of goods and services of which food, utility bills and transport are significant component parts.

The Office for National Statistics annually revise the goods and services within the basket to ensure that the weighing of food, utility bills and transport in the RPI accurately reflects their share of average expenditure.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of how the impact of inflation on pensioners' standard of life has compared with the impact on the average UK citizen's standard of life in each of the last three years; and what projections he has made for figures equivalent for each of the next three years. [170267]

**Kitty Ussher:** I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the annual rate of change of the retail prices index (RPI) pensioner price indices for one- and two-pensioner households as well as the all items RPI for the last three years. The figure for the third quarter of 2007 is also provided.

| | *Percentage change on year earlier* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *RPI* | |
| | *All items index* | *One-pensioner households index* | *Two-pensioner households index* |
| 2004 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| 2005 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.1 |
| 2006 | 3.2 | 4.5 | 3.6 |
| 2007 Q3 | 3.9 | 2.0 | 1.9 |

The Government's projections for inflation are published in table B3: Economic assumptions for the public finance projections in the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review. The Government do not forecast the rate of change of the RPI pensioner price indices.

### Personal Accounts

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the target audience for personal accounts which will be *(a)* subject to means-testing, *(b)* able to expect real returns of less than £2 for each £1 invested and *(c)* able to expect real returns of less than £1 for each £1 invested; and if he will make a statement. [171922]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The figures requested are not available.

Our previous analysis of a whole range of illustrative individuals shows that the large majority of individuals in the target group, including many of those with entitlement to income-related benefits, can expect to benefit from saving, thanks to low charges, the employer contribution and tax relief. Our previous publication, financial incentives to save for retirement, presented detailed analysis on this issue.

### Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of overseas recipients of SERPS or S2P who have had their benefits frozen; and what estimate he has made of the cost of unfreezing those benefits. [171799]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We estimate that there are around 110,000 overseas recipients of the UK additional state pension (SERPS and/or S2P) who live in countries where the pension is not uprated.

The estimated cost to uprate additional state pension is around £18 million in 2007-08 and it would cost around £170 million in 2007-08 if this was backdated and arrears paid.

*Notes:*

1. Estimates based on the latest available September 2006 RPWB dataset (5 per cent. administrative data sample)

2. There are very few overseas UK state pension recipients who are entitled to S2P only, without an entitlement to SERPS. In order to obtain more reliable estimates, recipients of S2P and/or SERPS have been aggregated.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners over the age of 85 receive their state pensions weekly by cheque or benefit book; [170534]

(2) how many pensioners receive their state pensions weekly by cheque or benefit book. [170535]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is not available in the format requested. Direct Payment is now the normal method of payment, and around 99 per cent. of pensioners are paid this way. A further 80,000 pensioners receive their state pension by cheque, 15,000 of whom are over the age of 85.

State Pension payments are paid at different intervals although the majority are paid either weekly or four weekly.

Benefit books were phased out during 2003-05 under the Payment Modernisation Programme.

### State Retirement Pensions: Industrial Disputes

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of state pensioners who would be affected by proposed strikes within the Pensions Service. [170533]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Pension Service has robust and proven contingency plans to ensure that payments to customers will be maintained throughout any period of strike action by staff.

### UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which countries have *(a)* signed and *(b)* ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; when the UK Government intends to ratify the convention; and if he will make a statement. [173269]

**Mrs. McGuire:** By 10 December, 118 countries had signed, and eleven had ratified, the convention since it was opened for signature on 30 March 2007. A list of signatories can be found on the UN website at

http://www.un.org/disabilities/countries.asp?navid=17&pid=166

I have set my officials the aim of achieving ratification for the United Kingdom before the end of 2008.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Leicester

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Leicester South received the winter fuel payment in each of the last five years. [170771]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information is in the following table.

*Leicester South*

| | *Payments made* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 14,860 |
| 2003-04 | 14,750 |
| 2004-05 | 14,310 |
| 2005-06 | 14,170 |
| 2006-07 | 14,130 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. There has been a decline in the number of people over 60 in Leicester South since 2003.

*Source:*
Information directorate 100 per cent data.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Catering

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average daily food cost was for non-commissioned ranks on non-operational duty in 2006-07. [172038]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The average daily cost, known as the daily messing rate (DMR), is based on a "basket" of nearly 100 basic catering items, and is calculated on a quarterly basis by applying prices obtained from the MOD's food supply contractor to the appropriate ration scale. The DMRs for the current period 1 October 2007-31 December 2007 are shown as follows:

(a) Army personnel—The DMR in their home posting is £1.63.

(b) Royal Navy personnel—The DMR in port is £1.78 (unless on duty watch, when 'at sea rates' apply).

(c) RAF personnel—The DMR at home bases is £1.63.

No differentiation is made between non-commissioned personnel and others.

These apparently low amounts are achieved by the scale of purchase of the 'basket items' and the associated economy of scale. Furthermore, DMR is the cost of the raw materials only and does not include transport or other costs.

### Armed Forces: Influenza

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of an influenza pandemic on the operational capacity of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [172780]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD has developed a MOD Pandemic Flu Contingency Plan to capture all the activities which will need to be undertaken across Defence in the event of an influenza pandemic. Regular meetings of the MOD Pandemic Flu Contingency Planning Sub-Group ensure that the potential impact of any pandemic on operations is kept under constant review.

The precise characteristics and impact of an influenza pandemic will only become apparent as the virus emerges. The armed forces are as vulnerable as the rest of society, so the MOD's level of preparedness is constantly evolving in line with operational requirements and cross-government (National) influenza contingency preparations.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many representations his Department has received in the last 12 months from *(a)* members of the armed forces and *(b)* others on its preparations for a potential influenza pandemic; what the content of those representations was; and if he will make a statement. [172794]

**Derek Twigg:** None.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the contingency plans for a potential influenza pandemic of *(a)* the Royal Navy, *(b)* the Army and *(c)* the Royal Air Force; on what dates each was (i) first published and (ii) last updated; and if he will make a statement. [172796]

**Derek Twigg:** Yes, I have placed a copy of the latest version of the MOD Pandemic Flu Contingency Plan in the Library of the House. MOD Influenza pandemic planning is defence wide and began in October 2005.

### Armed Forces: Mortgages

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will meet the Council of Mortgage Lenders to discuss the number of rejected mortgage applications from UK forces personnel posted overseas on the grounds of inability to provide a UK address. [171352]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As I stated in my answer on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 450W, if the hon. Member would wish to write to me with any details regarding the number of rejected mortgage applications, I would be content to consider meeting the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

### Army: Training

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what improvements have been made since 2002 in the provision of an effective supervisory regime in the Army training establishment; and what was the ratio between numbers of Officers, non-Commissioned Officers and recruits at *(a)* Deepcut, *(b)* Catterick barracks and *(c)* the 10 other largest Army training establishments in each of the last five years. [172300]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Since 2002 the key improvements that have been made have been designed to reduce the risk to the welfare and wellbeing of recruits and trainees. These include:

a revised Supervisory Care Policy that mandates that all commanding officers have a Supervisory Care Directive underpinned by a Commander's Risk Assessment;

the opening in June 2007 of the Army Recruiting and Training Division Staff Leadership School which is dedicated to instructor training;

improved training for instructors which, since October 2007, is accredited to meet the National Standard required of those delivering work based training in the Learning and Skills Sector;

improved care and management of those deemed to be 'at risk'; and,

a revised 'Under 18' policy, which provides comprehensive guidance to commanding officers as to how the care of personnel under 18 is to be managed.

The statistical information requested is not held centrally, but is being collated. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

### Bosnia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 577W, on Bosnia: peacekeeping operations, if he will define the meaning of the phrase prejudice international relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union as it applies in the Answer. [171890]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The release of the documents requested in the hon. Member's previous question of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 578W, would involve the disclosure of confidential information obtained from the European Union. This would prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union as the effective conduct of the United Kingdom's international relations, and its ability to protect and promote its interests abroad, would be compromised if international organisations became concerned that the confidence within which they consider their exchanges with the United Kingdom to take place might not be respected.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are employed by his Department, broken down by civil service grade. [172692]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is shown in the table as follows:

*Civilian personnel[1] by gender as at 1 October 2007*

| | | | *Headcount:* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
| SCS and Broader Banded Equivalents[2] | 260 | 40 | 310 |
| Band B | 2,030 | 530 | 2,560 |
| Band C | 12,290 | 4,800 | 17,080 |
| Band D | 7,410 | 4,370 | 11,780 |
| Band E | 11,440 | 14,210 | 25,650 |
| Other non Industrial | 270 | 740 | 1,020 |
| Industrials | 10,460 | 2,620 | 13,080 |
| Trading Fund Personnel | 8,100 | 2,170 | 10,270 |
| Sub total | 52,260 | 29,490 | 81,750 |
| Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)[3] | n/a | n/a | 2,340 |
| Locally engaged civilians[3] | n/a | n/a | 13,640 |

n/a = not available

[1] Data include permanent and casual personnel employed by the Department, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Trading Funds and Locally engaged civilians.

[2] The Senior Civil Service was formed in 1996. The totals include about 50 personnel outside the Senior Civil Service but of equivalent grade.

[3] Gender data are not available for Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel and Locally engaged civilian personnel.

[4] All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts

*Source:*

DASA (Quad Service)

### Departmental Reviews

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department (i) is responsible for and (ii) plans to establish; on what date each which is under way (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [170829]

**Derek Twigg:** The Department keeps all its business processes and structures under regular review. As a result, a wide range of internal reviews and consultations is currently in hand, and there are established project and study teams to conduct these as appropriate. Information on these is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 479W, on departmental written questions, if he will change his policy on this matter in the light of the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 133W, on written questions. [170727]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]*: The MOD has never provided this information and has no plans to change its policy. I have nothing further to add to my previous answer for the reasons I set out in my answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 479W.

### HMS Diamond

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason no Minister was present for the launching of HMS Diamond on 27 November 2007. [170726]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* Due to existing diary commitments and urgent parliamentary business that required ministerial representation in the House of Lords, no Minister from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) was available to attend the successful launch of the third Type 45 Destroyer, Diamond, on 27 November 2007. There was, however, senior representation at the event as the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jonathan Band, was in attendance as the official representative of MOD Ministers.

### Lebanon: Armed Forces

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to provide military advisers to the Lebanese armed forces to improve their defence capabilities. [171802]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We have worked with the Lebanese armed forces (LAF) to identify training needs and, where appropriate and possible, offer training assistance to improve their defence capabilities.

The MOD provides advice and training through military short term training teams (STTT) which consist of small numbers of subject matter experts deployed to fulfil niche training areas of LAF need.

In addition to the STTTs the UK also offers and pays for a variety of capacity building courses in the UK for LAF officers and senior non-commissioned officers. These courses focus on officer staff and command training.

### RAF Fylingdales

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* US personnel were employed at RAF Fylingdales in each year since 2002, broken down by employer. [171225]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 11 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 181W, and 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1235W, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker).

As of 3 December 2007 the figures for RAF Fylingdales were: one US military personnel; 13 US contractors; 79 RAF personnel; 162 UK contractors; 105 Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency personnel and 37 UK civilian personnel work at the base.

The number of personnel who worked at RAF Fylingdales in 2002, 2004 and 2005 is not available in the format requested.

### RAF Menwith Hill

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* US personnel were employed at RAF Menwith Hill in each year since 2002, broken down by employer. [171224]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 30 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1693W, and 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1235W, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) and on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 313W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett).

The number of personnel employed at RAF Menwith Hill in 2002, 2003 and 2004 is not available in the format requested.

### United Nations: Peace Keeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which countries UK personnel are deployed under UN peacekeeping mandates; and how many personnel are deployed in each case. [172530]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The following table details the countries where UK personnel are deployed on peacekeeping operations and political and peace-building missions conducted by the UN, and how many UK personnel are involved:

| *Mission* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICTP) | 275 |
| United Nations observer mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) | 5 |
| United Nations mission in Liberia (UNMIL) | 3 |
| United Nations organization mission in DR of Congo (MONUC) | 6 |
| United Nations mission in Sudan (UNMIS) | 6 |
| United Nation mission in Nepal (UNMIS) | [1]5 |
| United Nations integrated office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) | [1]1 |
| Total | 301 |

[1] Political and peace-building missions

## TREASURY

### Alternatively Secured Pensions

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the changes to alternatively secured pensions will be updated in the registered schemes manual; and what steps are taken to ensure that the information in the registered pensions scheme manual are kept up to date. [173271]

**Kitty Ussher:** The information in the Registered Pension Scheme Manual is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary. The amendments to this manual, arising from the changes made in Finance Act 2007 to the rules governing alternatively secured pensions, were published on 4 December following consultation on draft text.

### Bank Services

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the potential liability to the Exchequer from guaranteeing of bank deposits up to *(a)* £20,000, *(b)* £30,000, *(c)* £50,000, *(d)* £100,000, *(e)* £150,000 and *(f)* £200,000. [166575]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) protects eligible bank deposits up to specified limits. It is funded by levies on financial services firms.

### Buildings: Cabinet Office

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 November, *Official Report*, column 701W, on buildings: Cabinet Office, whether the database records figures separately for the Prime Minister's Offices. [173138]

**Angela Eagle:** The Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (e-PIMS) database does record figures separately for the Prime Minister's Offices.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 701W, on buildings: Cabinet Office, what the *(a)* total area and *(b)* vacant space in the (i) Cabinet Office's and (ii) Prime Minister's Offices was as recorded on the database in 1997 or the nearest available date. [173139]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is as follows:

(i) The total area for the Cabinet Office estate (including the Prime Minister's Offices) recorded on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (e-PIMS) database in 2005-06 was 161,673.2 $m^2$. The amount of vacant space recorded on e-PIMS for the Cabinet Office estate in 2005-06 was 676 $m^2$.

(ii) The total area of the Prime Minister's Offices (10-12 Downing street) recorded on e-PIMS in 2005-06 was 4,066.2 $m^2$. There was no vacant space recorded for these offices.

### Capital Gains Tax

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps were taken by his Department to consult the *(a)* Federation of Small Businesses, *(b)* British Chambers of Commerce, *(c)* Confederation of British Industry and *(d)* Institute of Directors on changes in taper relief on capital gains tax before publication of the 2007 pre-Budget report. [172806]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government do not generally consult on changes to tax rates. Following the publication of the pre-Budget report the Treasury has held constructive discussions with representatives from a number of business groups.

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1110-18, on HM Revenue and Customs, how the password for the discs was transmitted by HM Revenue and Customs to the National Audit Office on each occasion that data were sent. [173427]

**Jane Kennedy:** The location of the missing data discs is the subject of an ongoing Police investigation and it would be inappropriate to comment further. On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1110-18, on HM Revenue and Customs, how many personal records contained on the two discs missing from HM Revenue and Customs were from each parliamentary constituency. [173481]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients.

All child benefit customers in all parliamentary constituencies are affected by the data loss. The acting chairman of HM Revenue and Customs has written to all customers affected by the loss of child benefit data.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by local authority and parliamentary constituency are published as part of National Statistics and can be found in Tables 2 and 3 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

### Civil Service: Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to increase efficiency within the civil service. [172723]

**Andy Burnham:** The comprehensive spending review announced an ambitious framework for achieving value for money savings in the civil service and the wider public sector. This included a 5 per cent. annual fall in administration budgets in real terms and built on the success of the efficiency programme announced in the 2004 spending review.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what records his Department holds of the destinations of each Treasury away day undertaken in 2006-07; [173194]

(2) whether his Department's accounting system records the *(a)* cost, *(b)* destination and *(c)* activities undertaken of away days of the Performance and Efficiency Team in 2006-07. [173195]

**Angela Eagle:** Information on Treasury teams' away days cannot be disaggregated from accounting system records on training costs and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

### Elderly: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the population of *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth constituency that (i) were aged 65 years and over in each year from 1997 to 2006 and (ii) are aged 65 years and over in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [173079]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the population for (a) Staffordshire and (b) Tamworth constituency that (i) were aged 65 years and over in each year from 1997 to 2006 and (ii) are aged 65 years and over in 2007. (173079)

Whilst population estimates for Staffordshire are available for mid-1997 to mid-2006, population estimates for Tamworth constituency are only available for mid-2001 to mid-2005. Population estimates are not yet available for 2007. The population projection for mid-2007, based on the 2004 mid-year estimates, has been provided for Staffordshire. Population projections are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1 presents the available population data for Staffordshire, and Tamworth constituency.

*Table 1: Population estimates and projections for Staffordshire and estimates for Tamworth constituency*

| | | Thousand |
|---|---|---|
| | Population aged 65 and over | |
| Mid-year | Staffordshire | Tamworth |
| 1997 | 120 | [1]— |
| 1998 | 122 | [1]— |
| 1999 | 123 | [1]— |
| 2000 | 124 | [1]— |
| 2001 | 127 | 11 |
| 2002 | 129 | 12 |
| 2003 | 131 | 12 |
| 2004 | 134 | 12 |
| 2005 | 136 | 13 |
| 2006 | 138 | [1]— |
| 2007[2] | 142 | [1]— |

[1] Data for Tamworth constituency are not available

[2] Population projections

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics

### Employee Share Ownership Schemes

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultations his Department has held with the administrators and providers of employee share schemes on the recent pre-Budget report; and if he will make a statement. [173451]

**Kitty Ussher:** Following the publication of the pre-Budget report the Treasury has held constructive discussions with a range of stakeholders on employee share schemes.

### Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* volume and *(b)* revenue raised in duty of (i) beer, (ii) lager, (iii) cider and (iv) wine in each of the last three years. [170313]

**Angela Eagle:** Official estimates of clearances data can be found on the HMRC trade information website:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bulletins

and are summarised as follows.

*Volume of clearances*

| | | | Thousands of hectolitres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| Beer (including lager) | 58,845 | 57,596 | 55,444 |
| Cider | 6,126 | 6,462 | 7,863 |
| Wine | 12,901 | 13,085 | 12,893 |

Official receipt figures for beer, cider and wine duty can be found in the Budget documentation and are summarised as follows.

*Receipts*

| | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| Beer (including lager) | 3,100 | 3,080 | 3,070 |
| Cider | 160 | 170 | 200 |
| Wine | 2,230 | 2,310 | 2,390 |

*Notes:*

1. Estimates for wine include only product made from fresh grape.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10 million.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170506]

**Angela Eagle:** No illegal immigrants have been discovered working in the Treasury or its agencies during the past year.

### Marginal Tax Rates

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households which will experience marginal deduction rates of *(a)* 70 per cent. and *(b)* over 60 per cent. following the changes announced in Budget 2007. [173346]

**Jane Kennedy:** Estimates of the number of families facing marginal deduction rates above 60 per cent. under the 2008-09 tax and benefits system were published in the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review, Table 5.2.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the marginal deduction rate experienced by a married couple, local authority tenants, with one child under 11, no child care costs, working under 30 hours per week, with gross earnings of £200 per week. [173348]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is published by the Department for Work and Pensions in "Tax Benefit Model Tables April 2007", Table 1.5a.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tbmt.asp.

### Migrant Workers

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the geographical distribution of Eastern European migrants in the UK. [163170]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning the distribution of Eastern European migrants in the UK. I am replying in her absence. (163170)

The attached Table 1 shows the estimated number of people born in Eastern Europe by UK country and Government Office Region for the 12 month period ending December 2006.

The definition of Eastern Europe is the same as that used for the 2001 census. It includes all the EU accession states that are now part of the EU and also other countries.

These figures are based on the annual population survey, which is a survey of private households. As with any sample survey the estimates are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Geographical distribution of UK population born in Eastern Europe[1] 2006*

| *UK country/English GOR* | *Thousand* | *Percentage of total* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 592 | 92.9 |
| North East | 9 | 1.4 |
| North West | 35 | 5.5 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 61 | 9.7 |
| East Midlands | 49 | 7.7 |
| West Midlands | 36 | 5.6 |
| East of England | 52 | 8.2 |
| London | 261 | 41.0 |
| South East | 62 | 9.7 |
| South West | 26 | 4.1 |
| Wales | 11 | 1.8 |
| Scotland | 24 | 3.8 |
| Northern Ireland | 10 | 1.5 |
| Grand total | 637 | 100.0 |

[1] Definition 'Eastern Europe' is based on the 2001 Census country of birth definition which contains the following countries: (Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, Yugoslavia (nos))

*Notes:*

1. Estimates for 2006 are based on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which includes the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts.

2. It should be noted that the above estimates :-

exclude certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months

exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent

exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc)

are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more

are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003, which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

3. The LFS weighting does not adjust for non-response bias by the country of birth variable.

*Source:*

Annual Population Survey

### National Insurance Contributions

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised from national insurance contributions in 2006-07. [173343]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on receipts of National Insurance contributions is published in National Statistics Table 1.2 on the HMRC website. A link to the most recent publication is as follows:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax receipts/tablel-2.pdf

### National Security: Finance

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will break down the UK's security budget for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10 by Government Department; [165896]

(2) how much of the UK's security budget for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and (c) 2009-10 is allocated to each aspect of the Government's national security activities; [165895]

(3) how much of the £2.25 billion security budget is devoted to supporting critical national infrastructure. [165657]

**Andy Burnham:** As part of CSR 2007, the Government announced a new single security and intelligence budget which brings together dedicated counter-terrorism and intelligence funding for the security and intelligence agencies, the police and all parts of Government responsible for addressing threat from terrorism.

In 2007-08 single security and intelligence budget planned spending is £2.5 billion resource and capital. The provisional breakdown across departments is as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| Security and Intelligence Agencies | 1,508 |
| Home Office | 811 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | 93 |
| Northern Ireland Office | 68 |
| Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform | 61 |
| HM Revenue and Customs | 47 |
| Ministry of Defence | 38 |
| Communities, Local Government | 22 |
| Department for Transport | 12 |

Breaking down the new single budget by specific counter-terrorism and intelligence activities would reveal our capabilities and details of security and intelligence agencies spending beyond what is published already. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal these details.

The single security and intelligence budget will rise to £3.5 billion a year by 2010-11. The Government continue to assess the priorities and will publish such details as they can of spending plans for 2008-09 to 2010-11 in due course.

### Office of Government Commerce

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* results were of the Office of Government Commerce's staff attitude survey on service levels in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165305]

**Angela Eagle:** Two staff attitude surveys have been undertaken by OGC since 2003-04. The first was during 2003-04 and this cost around £17,500 and the second in 2006 at a cost of £20,000.

The surveys are internal management tools and it would not be appropriate to disclose information that relates to specific teams.

### Revenue and Customs: Interest Charges

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the rate of interest paid to members of the public on funds owed to them by HM Revenue and Customs was on 1 April 2007; [173108]

(2) what the rate of interest charged to members of the public on sums owed by them to HM Revenue and Customs was on 1 April 2007. [173109]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the HM Revenue and Customs' website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/interest for direct taxes and http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/VAT/ratesandcodes.htm for indirect taxes.

### Save as You Earn

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of individual members of save as you earn schemes that will be affected by the changes introduced by the recent pre-Budget report; and if he will make a statement; [173253]

(2) what total revenue has been collected from capital gains tax on maturing save as you earn schemes in each of the last five tax years. [173450]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

### Social Services: Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he and his Ministers had with Department of Health *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers to discuss the settlement for social care in the comprehensive spending review; at which of those meetings the subject of payment for long-term care was discussed; and if he will make available the minutes of those meetings. [172928]

**Andy Burnham:** The Chancellor and his Ministers have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues and others on a wide range of issues.

### Suicide

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of deaths in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* the UK were suicides in each of the last 10 years. [173570]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many and what proportion of the deaths in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* the UK were suicides in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (173570)

The table attached provides the number and percentage of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, in *(a)* the North East government office region and *(b)* the United Kingdom, for 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number and percentage of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1, 2], (a) North East government office region, and (b) the United Kingdom[3, 4] 1997-2006[5]*

| | North East[3] | | UK | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Deaths | Percentage | Deaths | Percentage |
| 1997 | 256 | 1 | 5,816 | 1 |
| 1998 | 290 | 1 | 6,354 | 1 |
| 1999 | 258 | 1 | 6,255 | 1 |
| 2000 | 279 | 1 | 6,124 | 1 |
| 2001 | 249 | 1 | 5,932 | 1 |
| 2002 | 239 | 1 | 5,826 | 1 |
| 2003 | 272 | 1 | 5,731 | 1 |
| 2004 | 295 | 1 | 5,850 | 1 |
| 2005 | 242 | 1 | 5,671 | 1 |
| 2006 | 228 | 1 | 5,563 | 1 |

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for England and Wales (1997 to 2000), and codes E950-E959 and E980-E989 for Scotland (1997 to 1999) and Northern Ireland (1997 to 2000), and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for England and Wales (2001 to 2006), and codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 for Scotland (2000 to 2006), and Northern Ireland (2001 to 2006).

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[4] Figures for the UK include data provided by the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Television: Greater London

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households in London which had *(a)* a television, *(b)* satellite or cable television, *(c)* a home computer and *(d)* access to the internet in each year since 1997. [172944]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of households in London which had (a) a television, (b) satellite or cable television, (c) a home computer and (d) access to the internet in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (172944)

Estimates of the ownership of durable goods appear in the ONS's 'Family Spending' report. The latest report for 2005-06 was published on the National Statistics website on 18th January 2007 at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=361.

Family Spending is the ONS's annual report on the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), an annual survey of approximately 7,000 households in the UK.

The tables provided show the estimated number of households in London owning each of these durable goods (Table 1). In addition, the percentage of households owning these goods have also been provided (Table 2).

Both the estimates of the number of households owning these durable goods, and the estimates of the total number of households in London vary to some extent from year to year. This is because estimates produced from the EFS combine information about ownership of durable goods provided by survey respondents, with London population estimates by age and sex, to produce estimates of the total number of people in London owning these goods. These population control totals are a measure of the number of people in London, but there are no control totals for the number of households. As a consequence, there is some year to year volatility in estimates of the numbers of households.

The figures for ownership of satellite or cable television, home computers and access to the internet are all increasing rapidly, and so while there is some year to year volatility in the estimates, the underlying trend is very apparent. As regards the number of households owning televisions, which one would expect to be changing much more slowly, most of the year to year movement in the figures is likely to be due to the sampling variability described above.

Figures have also been provided on the percentages of households owning these durable goods. As proportions, these figures are affected less by year to year volatility in the estimated numbers of households.

*Table 1: Estimated number of households with selected durable goods in London, 1996-97 to 2005-06*[1, 2]

*Thousand*

| | *Number of households* | *Satellite receiver*[3] | *Home computer* | *Internet connection* | *TV set* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 2,800 | 507 | 937 | — | 2,742 |
| 1997-98 | 2,956 | 777 | 1,024 | — | 2,881 |
| 1998-99 | 3,032 | 886 | 1,177 | 472 | 2,965 |
| 1999-2000 | 3,094 | 1,073 | 1,370 | 772 | 3,030 |
| 2000-01 | 3,064 | 1,200 | 1,542 | 1,211 | 2,937 |
| 2001-02 | 2,851 | 1,303 | 1,650 | 1,376 | 2,779 |
| 2002-03 | 2,840 | 1,139 | 1,709 | 1,416 | 2,774 |
| 2003-04 | 2,889 | 1,424 | 1,900 | 1,649 | 2,851 |
| 2004-05 | 2,908 | 1,581 | 1,910 | 1,590 | 2,860 |
| 2005-06 | 2,826 | 1,733 | 2,011 | 1,744 | 2,789 |

[1] London covers the London Government office region.

[2] Internet connection data were not collected on the Family Expenditure Survey prior to 1998-99.

[3] Includes digital and cable receivers.

*Source:*

Family Expenditure Survey (up to 2000-01), Expenditure and Food Survey thereafter

*Table 2: Percentage of households with selected durable goods in London, 1996-97 to 2005-06*[1, 2]

*Percentage*

| | *Satellite receiver*[3] | *Home computer* | *Internet connection* | *TV set* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 18 | 33 | — | 98 |
| 1997-98 | 26 | 35 | — | 97 |
| 1998-99 | 29 | 39 | 16 | 98 |
| 1999-2000 | 35 | 44 | 25 | 98 |
| 2000-01 | 39 | 50 | 40 | 96 |
| 2001-02 | 46 | 58 | 48 | 97 |
| 2002-03 | 40 | 60 | 50 | 98 |
| 2003-04 | 49 | 66 | 57 | 99 |
| 2004-05 | 54 | 66 | 55 | 98 |
| 2005-06 | 61 | 71 | 62 | 99 |

[1] London covers the London Government office region.

[2] Internet connection data were not collected on the Family Expenditure Survey prior to 1998-99.

[3] Includes digital and cable receivers.

*Source:*

Family Expenditure Survey (up to 2000-01), Expenditure and Food Survey thereafter

## Trading Funds

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with how many *(a)* private sector stakeholders and *(b)* public sector stakeholders the Cambridge university team carrying out the review of trading funds has met. [172475]

**Andy Burnham:** The Cambridge university team have undertaken the analysis on the definition and charging models for the public information held by trading funds on an independent basis and have met with the stakeholders they consider necessary to inform their analysis.

## VAT: Charitable Donations

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will exempt from VAT charitable donations that companies make out of the purchase price of their products. [173197]

**Jane Kennedy:** A donation that is freely given and for which nothing is received in return is outside the scope of VAT. Therefore, if payment of an element of the purchase price of goods and services by a customer is optional, and is clearly set out as a donation to charity, no VAT is chargeable on that part of the payment.

Otherwise, VAT is chargeable on the full price paid for a supply of goods or services, subject to the VAT liability rules set out in the VAT Act. This position reflects the requirements of our European VAT agreements.

### Working Tax Credits: EU Nationals

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many EU A8 nationals successfully applied for *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in each year since the accession of the A8 nations; and how many of these had previously been in receipt of each such benefit. [173066]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Accession monitoring report, last published on 20 November 2007 on the Home Office Borders and Immigration Agency website

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

provides detailed information including the total number of workers from the new member states of the EU which acceded on 1 May 2004 and who have made claims for tax credits.

The other information requested is not available.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171432]

**Mr. Thomas:** My Department and its agencies have spent the following:

|  |  |  | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Cards* | *Decorations* | *Parties* |
| 2002 | 602 | 0 | 16,000 |
| 2003 | 618 | 0 | 16,000 |
| 2004 | 2,333 | 1,370 | 16,000 |
| 2005 | 2,165 | 920 | 18,000 |
| 2006 | 1,943 | 1,591 | 11,000 |

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been paid by his Department and its predecessor in consultancy fees since *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2005-06. [171993]

**Mr. Thomas:** Central records indicate that the cost to the Department of engaging consultants in each of the following financial years has been:

|  | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 21 |
| 2000-01 | 36 |
| 2001-02 | 64 |
| 2002-03 | 93 |
| 2003-04 | 112 |
| 2004-05 | 86 |
| 2005-06 | 53.6 |
| 2006-07 | 40.3 |
| 2007-08 | 8.7 |

Information for years prior to 1999-2000 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws. [168080]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168822]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there have been in his Department or his Department's Agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168835]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Manpower

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of posts in his Department were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172247]

**Mr. Thomas:** Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is committed to achieving its workforce reduction target of 1,010 posts by the end of 2007-08. This is a net target and no posts will be reallocated to the frontline as part of it.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each Civil Service grade are employed by his Department. [172736]

**Mr. McFadden:** For the information required, please refer to the 2006 Civil Service Statistics published by Office for National Statistics (ONS). Table H of the publication presents permanent employees by Department, responsibility level, ethnic origin and gender.

As BERR only came into existence this year, the right hon. Member should refer to the then Department of Trade and Industry entry, which now forms the majority of the new Department. The following extract is as follows:

*BERR (Department of Trade and Industry Statistics, which now forms the majority of the new Department)*

| | *White* | | *Ethnic minority* | | *Non-response* | | | *Ethnic minority as percentage of known ethnic origin* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Responsibility level* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *All employees* | *Male* | *Female* |
| SCS level | 150 | 60 | 10 | — | 80 | 30 | 320 | 4.4 | — |
| Grades 6/7 | 750 | 350 | 50 | 40 | 290 | 170 | 1,650 | 6.0 | 9.8 |
| All other levels | 2,560 | 2,880 | 460 | 650 | 930 | 880 | 8,340 | 15.1 | 18.3 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | 0 | — | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| All employees | 3,460 | 3,290 | 510 | 690 | 1,290 | 1,080 | 10,310 | 12.8 | 17.2 |

*Source:*
The 2006 Civil Service Statistics published by ONS.

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served *(a)* exclusively and *(b)* at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164289]

**Mr. Thomas:** BERR works with its caterer to provide catering and hospitality services in line with the public sector food procurement initiative (PSFPI). As a part of this Government initiative BERR offers a selection of UK grown and produced products including English wines.

## Departmental Opinion Polls

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1110W, on departmental opinion polls, what opinion polls his Department has conducted of the public since 27 June. [173431]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department does not centrally collect the information sought and to provide it would entail disproportionate cost.

Only statistical surveys to businesses and local authorities conducted by the Department and its agencies are monitored centrally to facilitate control of compliance costs to business and departmental expenditure on survey activity. The answer would incur disproportionate cost because of the need to ask all directorates in BERR, plus agencies and associated non-departmental public bodies, to attempt to provide details of each survey and piece of research commissioned which may contain opinion questions.

## Employment Tribunals Service

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to *(a)* promote alternative forms of dispute resolution in cases of employment tribunals and *(b)* reduce the length of time for employment disputes to be resolved once they have gone to tribunal. [172760]

**Mr. McFadden:** We will be setting out proposals in the Government response to the consultation "Resolving disputes in the workplace". The response will be published shortly.

## Industry: Subsidies

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much state aid has been authorised to each EU member state's *(a)* national airline, *(b)* coal industry and *(c)* steel industry by the European Commission in the last 10 years. [170650]

**Mr. Thomas:** The European Commission issues reports on state aid in the State Aid Scoreboard, which provides statistical information on authorised state aid in each member state—available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state aid/studies reports/stat tables.html

Part 1 of the scoreboard provides country specific information on state aid by sector and objective including, manufacturing sectors, coal and transport. In addition, the Commission publishes on its website a State Aid Register, which gives detailed information on all State aid cases which have been approved by the Commission since 1 January 2000—at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/state_aid/register/

## Overseas Investment: Burma

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total value of UK foreign direct investment in Burma was in each year since 2000. [167154]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK Government discourage trade and investment with Burma. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures for the UK's foreign direct investment in Burma for the period 2001-04 are protected by commercial confidentiality. The ONS recorded a nil investment return in 2005. Data for 2006 will be published in February 2008.

## Overseas Trade: Burma

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total value of British trade with Burma has been in each year since 1997. [173263]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Government have a long-standing policy of not encouraging British firms to trade with or invest in Burma. We offer no commercial services to companies wishing to trade with or invest in Burma. British companies who inquire about trade with Burma are informed of the grave political situation, the regime's atrocious record on human rights and the country's dire economic prospects.

The following table is based on HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics.

£ million

| | UK imports of goods from Burma | UK exports of goods to Burma |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 19.5 | 15.4 |
| 1998 | 17.3 | 12.6 |
| 1999 | 23.8 | 7.4 |
| 2000 | 49.3 | 8.6 |
| 2001 | 66.6 | 9.5 |
| 2002 | 64.3 | 7.3 |
| 2003 | 62.3 | 5.0 |
| 2004 | 73.8 | 2.2 |
| 2005 | 34.6 | 10.0 |
| 2006 | 26.7 | 3.7 |

### Post Offices: Closures

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which post offices in Liverpool Riverside constituency have been *(a)* considered for closure and *(b)* closed by Post Office Ltd. in the last 10 years; which post offices in that constituency have closed for other reasons over that period; and if he will make a statement. [173087]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Postal Votes

**Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Electoral Commission and *(b)* Ministry of Justice on measures to improve the efficiency and security of postal voting. [167993]

**Mr. McFadden:** We have had no such discussions. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for electoral policy issues, including matters relating to postal voting procedures. The general security of items posted under licence is governed under a Mail Integrity Code which is overseen by Postcomm, the independent industry regulator.

### Research Councils: Expenditure

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what basis Lord Truscott, in his letter to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak, dated 27 June 2007, was able to state that the £68 million taken from unspent funds in the Research Councils met departmental budgetary pressures that included *(a)* the restructuring of British Energy, *(b)* meeting the shortfall in EU structural funds, *(c)* the collapse of MG Rover and *(d)* increased spend on the Technology Programme and Space Projects. [164821]

**Mr. Thomas:** DTI's memorandum to the Trade and Industry Committee in February 2007 explained changes which were being made in the spring supplementary estimate. This included the fact that in 2006/07, the DTI faced a budget shortfall due to a number of factors including the funding of the British Energy rescue package from within the SR04 settlement, and clarification of the budgeting guidance in November 2005.

The Department also had to face a number of unforeseen pressures that arose after the SR04 settlement had been made. These included the fall out from MG Rover, an increase in demand-led services, and the need to fund new cross-governmental priorities. Dealing with these pressures, left DTI without any significant flexibility to manage budgets and absorb new pressures.

DTI sought to manage these pressures within its budget. The Department looked rigorously at all elements of non ring-fenced spend to identify efficiencies and flexibilities and as a result identified significant savings to be put towards pressures. These savings, however, were not sufficient to provide cover for the unavoidable pressures faced in 2006/07. This complex picture led to the use of unspent funds from the ring-fenced science budget in order to fund residual pressures which the Department was facing.

### Skilled Workers

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government have taken to encourage employers to educate their workforces and increase their skills base in the last five years. [166166]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

This Department is leading the Government's work to ensure we have a workforce with the world class skills the 21st century demands. For our businesses, a more highly skilled workforce is the path to higher productivity, competitiveness and profitability. For our citizens, better skills are the path to sustained employment, career progression, and increased income.

In July 2007, we published "World Class Skills" setting out our plans for England to deliver a step change in the nation's attitude towards education. Through the measures in "World Class Skills" we will give employers the opportunity to exert real leverage and decision making over the content and delivery of skills and employment programmes. With the role of sector skills councils more sharply focused on raising demand and investment from employers; in articulating the future skills needs of their employers; and ensuring that the supply of skills and qualifications is driven by employers.

At the forefront of our strategy is the Skills Pledge giving employers an opportunity to publicly demonstrate their commitment to investing in the skills of their employees; and an improved and expanded Train to Gain service to help employers of all sizes and in all sectors to identify and address their skills needs.

In its first year 52,730 employers have been engaged through Train to Gain against a target of 47,770 and almost a quarter of a million employees have been trained. And week on week numbers of employers making the Skills Pledge continues to grow since its launch in June 2007, with now over 630 employers having made the commitment covering more than 3.1 million employees.

Trade Unions also have an important role to play in achieving our ambitions. There are now more than 18,000 trained Union Learning Representatives working across the country to encourage more people to participate in training.

### Summertime: Energy

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on carbon dioxide emissions of introducing British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer; [172337]

(2) when he last assessed the potential effects on UK energy consumption of introducing British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer; [172338]

(3) if he will assess the effects on *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial fuel bills of introducing British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer; [172339]

(4) what his Department's assessment is of the potential effects on energy consumption of introducing British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer. [172341]

**Mr. McFadden:** Research undertaken by the Building Research Establishment for DEFRA in 2005 indicates that putting clocks forward an additional one hour in winter and summer would lead to a net increase in carbon dioxide emissions corresponding to around 1 per cent. of total UK emissions of carbon dioxide, as a result of increased energy consumption in UK buildings for lighting, space heating and cooling. The study also shows that a switch to British Summer Time all the year round would increase emissions by just under 0.5 per cent. The study was based on modelling patterns of energy use in the UK building stock.

We are not convinced that a change to current arrangements would be in the best interests of the UK and so there are no plans to change the summer time arrangements at this time.

### Trade Agreements: India

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the timeline is for the EU/India Free Trade Agreement under negotiation; and what commitments the Agreements on Labour Liberalisation make as currently drafted. [172598]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* Spring 2009 is the proposed deadline for the completion of the EU/India Free Trade Agreement but this will require concerted effort from both sides as negotiations are still at an early stage.

The inclusion of international labour standards in this Free Trade Agreement, in line with International Labour Organisation guidelines, is of importance in these negotiations.

### VAT: North West Region

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have *(a)* registered and *(b)* deregistered for VAT in (i) Lancashire and (ii) the North West in each of the last five years. [173398]

**Mr. Timms:** The number of new VAT registrations and de-registrations in the Lancashire county and the North West are shown for 2002 to 2006, alongside the total number of VAT registered businesses at the start of each year.

*VAT registrations, de-registrations and stock of VAT registered businesses in Lancashire county*[1]

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Registrations | 3,020 | 3,405 | 3,175 | 3,030 | 2,925 | — |
| De-registrations | 2,655 | 2,685 | 2,540 | 2,370 | 2,310 | — |
| Start of year stock | 31,575 | 31,935 | 32,655 | 33,290 | 33,950 | 34,565 |

[1] Lancashire county does not include Blackpool UA or Blackburn with Darwen UA.

*Source:*

Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2006 Available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat

*VAT registrations, de-registrations and stock of VAT registered businesses in the North West*

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Registrations | 17,385 | 19,005 | 18,080 | 17,940 | 17,920 | — |
| De-registrations | 15,550 | 15,070 | 14,740 | 13,670 | 13,670 | — |
| Start of year stock | 168,415 | 170,250 | 174,185 | 177,525 | 181,795 | 186,045 |

*Source:*

Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2006.

Available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat

Although the number of registrations and de-registrations has fluctuated over the period, the total number of VAT registered businesses in Lancashire county has increased from 31,575 at the start of 2002 to 34,565 in 2007, an increase of 2,990 (9 per cent.). Over the same period the number of VAT registered businesses in the North West increased from 168,415 to 186,045, an increase of 17,630 (10 per cent.).

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

### Departmental Staff

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department and its predecessor *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171276]

**Mr. Thomas:** The information requested is not centrally held by the Department and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## HEALTH

### Aortic Aneurysm: Screening

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of a mass screening programme for aneurysm of the abdominal aorta in males over the age of 50 years; what estimate he has made of the number of deaths per year in the UK caused by this condition; and if he will estimate what the cost of such a screening programme would be. [170204]

**Ann Keen:** The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC) has advised that screening men at age 65 for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) can be recommended in principle.

The number of deaths in 2005 in England and Wales (for both men and women of all age groups) from abdominal aortic aneurysms was approximately 7,000. An exact figure cannot be identified because of the amalgamation of thoracic and abdominal aortic aneurysms in some sub-codes of the International Classification of Disease.

Work is currently in progress to assess the implications of implementing abdominal aortic aneurysm screening in England. This assessment has to take account of the likely impact of a screening programme on existing healthcare services and the infrastructure and staffing requirements in order for a programme to be safely introduced, and will include costings. Such assessments are normally undertaken before major screening policy decisions are made.

### Asylum: Health Services

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost of providing NHS health care to asylum seekers in England and Wales was in each of the last five years; [173579]

(2) what criteria he uses to determine the Government's policy on whether the UK's terms of provision of health care to asylum seekers comply with *(a)* the European Convention on Human Rights and *(b)* other international obligations; [173580]

(3) what consultations he has had with the medical profession on proposals to withdraw free health care from asylum seekers; [173581]

(4) what steps he plans to take in relation to health care practitioners who provide medical treatment to asylum seekers without charge. [173594]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The United Kingdom has international obligations which mean that anyone who has made a formal application for asylum in the UK under the 1951 United Nations Convention and its 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees is entitled to free national health service health care for as long as that application, including appeals, is under consideration. The Government's approach is also in accordance with our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights on which there is extensive case law both domestic and from the European Court of Human Rights. The UK has also transposed into national legislation European Community Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003, which lays down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers.

Our aim is also that asylum seekers who spend time in Border and Immigration Agency initial accommodation in England prior to dispersal should be offered Departmental funded health assessments and tuberculosis screening. This assists in identifying and addressing immediate health care needs through the use of trained health care staff and interpreters, and avoids duplication of questions and checks later by recording medical histories in a patient hand help record that the asylum seeker can keep with them.

There are no plans to withdraw free health care from asylum seekers. Consequently, no such consultations on withdrawing treatment have taken place, nor will steps be taken in relation to health care practitioners correctly providing asylum seekers with free medical treatment.

The cost of providing NHS health care to asylum seekers is not recorded. Therefore, it is not possible to provide that information.

### Breast Cancer

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of a woman's risk of contracting breast cancer across her lifetime; and if he will make a statement. [172169]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* One in nine women will develop breast cancer at some time in their life. The estimated risk of developing it for each of the other age groups has been calculated as:

up to age 25, one in 15,000;
up to age 30, one in 1,900;
up to age 40, one in 200;
up to age 50, one in 50;
up to age 60, one in 23;
up to age 70, one in 15;
up to age 80, one in 11;
up to age 85, one in 10.

*Source*:

Cancer Trends in England and Wales 1950-1999, National Statistics Studies on Medical and Population Subjects, no 66, 2001, Quinn et al

### Breast Feeding: Publicity

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department plans to provide in support of Breastfeeding Awareness Week 2008. [172288]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department plans to spend £275,000 on the national Breastfeeding Awareness Week, which will be held from 11 to 17 May 2008. In addition, the Department plans to continue and sustain the promotion of breastfeeding throughout the year.

### Cancer: Health Services

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to announce the cancer reform strategy. [169821]

**Ann Keen:** The cancer reform strategy was published on 3 December 2007, and copies are available in the Vote Office.

### Care Homes

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he took to reduce the number of standards against which care homes were inspected between 2001-02 and 2006-07; and what the reasons were for those actions. [172611]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The number of National Minimum Standards (NMS) has not changed since their introduction in 2002. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is required to take account of the NMS in assessing providers' compliance with regulations. It is for CSCI to determine its methodology for doing so.

### Care Homes: Closures

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used to judge the performance of care homes; and how many *(a)* care homes, *(b)* residential homes and *(c)* nursing homes were ordered to close in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area. [172925]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is responsible, under the Care Standards Act 2000 and associated Regulations, including the Care Homes Regulations 2001, for the inspection and regulation of care and nursing homes. When inspecting care homes, CSCI must have regard to the national minimum standards, which were introduced in 2002.

Data on care home closures prior to the establishment of CSCI in 2004 are not held centrally.

All care and nursing homes are residential. We are informed by CSCI that homes are registered to provide personal care only or care with nursing. The numbers of homes that were ordered to close under Section 20 of the Care Standards Act 2000 in each of the last four inspection years, since the inception of CSCI, are shown in the following table.

*Homes ordered to close under Section 20 of the Care Standards Act 2000*

| Period | Homes providing personal care | Homes providing care with nursing |
|---|---|---|
| 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 | 5 | 0 |
| 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 | 3 | 0 |
| 1 April 2007 to 7 December 2007 | 7 | 0 |

### Care Homes: Inspections

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends to give care homes an inspection holiday; and if he will make a statement. [173201]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) has developed, through the inspection methodology, "Inspecting for Better Lives", a proportionate inspection framework based on risk. This enables CSCI to focus its resources on those homes that have been assessed as requiring the most improvement. Minimum inspection frequencies are based on quality ratings as follows:

homes classified as 'poor' receive two key inspections per year;

homes classified as 'adequate' receive one key inspection per year;

homes classified as 'good' receive one key inspection every two years; and

homes classified as 'excellent' receive one key inspection every three years.

Even when a home is judged to be 'good' or 'excellent', it will continue to be monitored throughout the period and CSCI will act on any concerns, complaints or allegations. In addition to key inspections, which are thorough, detailed inspection, under which CSCI will assess all of the key national minimum standards. CSCI also carries out 'random' and 'thematic' inspections, which are short, focused inspections on a specific theme or area.

Annual Service Reviews are also conducted from information obtained from the home and a report produced on an annual basis. CSCI has the power to conduct an inspection of any home at any time period if the information it receives warrants it.

### Child Health Interim Application

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 14 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1351W, on the Child Health Interim Application, whether the catch-up exercise has been completed; if he will place in the Library the options report; what updates his Ministers received at the end of January 2007; when the National Child Health Immunisation Board last met; and if he will make available the minutes of its meetings. [171973]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The catch-up exercise will be completed across the Child Health Interim Application (CHIA) primary care trusts (PCTs) by the end of March 2008.

The "CHIA Option Appraisal Process—Final Report" has been placed in the Library.

The former Minister of State for Health my hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) was updated by officials on 29 January 2007 in relation to the National Immunisation Programme, data issues, specific COVER Data problems with regard to the 10 PCTs using CHIA, and the establishment of a National Child Health Immunisation Programme Board.

The National Child Health Immunisation Board last met on 15 October 2007. The minutes of this meeting will be made available when they have been finalised.

### Chiropody: Greater London

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chiropodists there were in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [171099]

**Ann Keen:** This information is shown in the following table. The workforce census recorded Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (PCT) as the sole employer of chiropodists/podiatrists in the Uxbridge constituency and the London borough of Hillingdon. The number of chiropodists/podiatrists in the national health service in England has increased by 469 (14 per cent.) since 1997 to 3,755 in 2006.

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified chiropody/podiatry staff in England, the London strategic health authority area and the Hillingdon PCT area*

| | | | | | | | | | | *headcount* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006*[1] |
| England | 3,286 | 3,325 | 3,368 | 3,473 | 3,561 | 3,638 | 3,807 | 3,941 | 3,913 | 3,755 |
| *of which:* | | | | | | | | | | |
| London Strategic Health Authority area | 489 | 511 | 500 | 533 | 531 | 476 | 502 | 518 | 528 | 488 |
| *of which:* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hillingdon Primary Care Trust area | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 13 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 13 |

n/a = not available. Prior to 2002 chiropody/podiatry services for the Hillingdon PCT area were provided by Harrow and Hillingdon Healthcare NHS Trust. In 2002 the trust was split into the Harrow and Hillingdon PCTs, and it is impossible to retrospectively split the census data between these two organisations.

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

## Counter Fraud and Security Management Services Division

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Counter Fraud and Security Management Services Division recovered in fraud detected or prevented in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what proportion these figures represented of the division's costs in each year. [171661]

**Ann Keen:** The information is in the following table.

| | | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Counter fraud costs[1] | 13,262,120 | 13,184,000 |
| Detection savings[2] | 7,265,711 | 11,821,347 |
| Prevention savings | 1,920,000 | [3]— |
| Cash recoveries | 1,448,619 | 2,035,814 |
| | [4]27,750,000 | |

[1] 'Counter fraud costs' consist of the NHS Counter Fraud Service budget plus the Department's funding of civil proceedings.

[2] 'Detection savings' equal losses that would otherwise have been sustained had fraud not been detected, calculated using the average duration of frauds of the same type.

[3] 'Prevention savings' figures are produced through periodic measurement exercises.

Exercises due to be carried out in 2008-09 will measure reduced losses in the period 2006-07 to 2007-08.

[4] 'Cash recoveries' include recoveries through settlement of ongoing civil proceedings (brought by the Department) against certain generic drugs companies.

## Dental Services: Armed Forces

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the role of his Department is in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence in recruiting military dentists; and if he will make a statement. [170598]

**Ann Keen:** It is the responsibility of the single services to recruit military dentists to fill established posts in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. However, the Ministry of Defence and UK Departments of Health Partnership Board considers work force issues generally.

## Dental Services: Greater London

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* Hillingdon Primary Care Trust and *(c)* Greater London (i) admitted new adult patients to their list and (ii) treated NHS patients between the ages of 18 to 65 years in each of the last five years. [171093]

**Ann Keen:** Information on national health service dentists who admitted new patients to their list is not collected centrally.

Under the old contractual arrangements which were in place until 2006 patients had to register with an individual dentist.

The numbers of patients registered with an NHS dentist at primary care trust and strategic health authority area are available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information at parliamentary constituency level is available in Annex C. Data are available annually as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 and are broken down by children (aged 17 and under) and adults (aged 18 and over).

This report has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

## Departmental Board

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W on the Departmental Board, if he will place in the Library a copy of the evaluation report from the Winter Willow scenario exercise referred to in paragraph 4.1 of the minutes of the meeting held in July 2007. [172443]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The report 'Exercise Winter Willow—Lessons Identified' was published on 30 August and a copy has been placed in the Library.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which teams across Whitehall worked on the review of social care funding announced by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) on 30 March 2006; how many people worked in each of those teams; and how many officials worked on the review. [172929]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department has not quantified the work of the Comprehensive Spending Review Social Care Working Group. The allocation of personnel and staff hours varied according to the task at hand.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the review of social care funding group announced by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) on 30 March 2006 met; and whether the personnel of that group remained as announced by the hon. Gentleman. [172930]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department Comprehensive Spending Review Social Care Working Group, met four times in total during June, July, October and November 2006. Group membership remained largely as announced by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) on 30 March, although some Departments chose to be more closely involved in discussions than others. Following ministerial changes in May 2006, I became chair of the group.

### Depressive Illnesses: Incapacity Benefit

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking with health professionals to reduce the numbers of people on incapacity benefit for conditions such as anxiety and depression; [171851]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of co-operation between GPs and employers in assisting people with long-term mental health conditions. [171852]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department is actively ensuring that all healthcare professionals fully understand the links between health and work, including issues surrounding mental health, and the role that they can play in helping their patients to stay in or quickly return to work. As such we are developing a range of programmes to educate and training healthcare professionals, including:

piloting a national education programme for general practitioners (GPs), which is currently being evaluated, to communicate key messages on links between work and health with a view to influencing GP practice in relation to advising patients about work;

commissioning a training module for GPs on handling difficult fitness for work discussions with patients;

developing a leaflet for GPs outlining the key messages from the evidence review as relevant to their practice;

developing key messages for medical students to be included in their training, with a website based package of resources for use by medical schools;

commissioning the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges to find ways to incorporate key health and work content into postgraduate training of doctors; and

developing an online learning module for nurses on health and work issues which is almost complete and will be launched in early November.

### Dermatology

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what account is taken of dermatological services provision in allocating NHS funding to strategic health authorities; and what assessment he has made of geographical variations in funding for dermatology services; [166502]

(2) what assessment he has made of variations in the provision of skin care services by region. [166505]

**Ann Keen:** Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs) and not to strategic health authorities (SHAs). Funding is allocated to PCTs on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each PCTs share of available resources, to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need.

It is for PCTs to assess the need for services locally, including dermatological services, and to commission services accordingly. By December 2008, patients on consultant-led pathways can expect a maximum wait of 18 weeks from general practitioner (GP) referral to the start of consultant-led treatment. This will include consultant-led dermatological services.

The following table shows spending on skin problems in pounds per 100,000 weighted population.

*Programme 14—skin problems*

| | *Unified weighted population* | *£ per 100,000 weighted population* |
|---|---|---|
| North East SHA | 2,838,474 | 2,882,323 |
| North West SHA | 7,515,353 | 2,850,112 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber SHA | 5,123,256 | 3,080,686 |
| East Midlands SHA | 4,079,218 | 2,732,852 |
| West Midlands SHA | 5,440,919 | 2,806,622 |
| East of England SHA | 5,156,896 | 2,989,763 |
| London SHA | 7,994,491 | 2,605,832 |
| South East Coast SHA | 3,981,155 | 2,891,875 |
| South Central SHA | 3,506,664 | 3,087,978 |
| South West SHA | 4,839,805 | 2,581,075 |

*Source:*
www.dh.gov.uk/Programmebudgeting

### Diseases: Children

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in the incidence of *(a)* diphtheria, *(b)* tetanus, *(c)* pertussis, *(d)* haemophilus influenzae type b, *(e)* polio, *(f)* meningitis C, *(g)* measles, *(h)* mumps, *(i)* rubella and *(j)* acellular pertussis amongst children in London in the last two years. [171823]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number of cases of confirmed diphtheria, tetanus, haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), poliomyelitis, meningococcal serogroup C (MenC), measles, mumps, rubella and clinically diagnosed pertussis in London children for the last two years for which data is available are shown in the following table.

| *Disease* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|
| Diphtheria[1] | 0 | 0 |
| Tetanus[1] | 0 | 0 |
| Pertussis[2] | 36 | 53 |
| Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)[1] | 4 | 6 |
| Poliomyelitis | 0 | 0 |
| Meningococcal serogroup C (MenC)[1] | 0 | 1 |
| Measles[1] | 30 | 194 |
| Mumps[1] | 217 | 55 |
| Rubella[1] | 1 | 1 |

[1] Confirmed cases in children aged 0-14 years.
[2] Notified cases in children aged 0-14 years.
*Source:*
Health Protection Agency

### Doctors: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average length of time an NHS doctor spent on *(a)* full and *(b)* part pay during a period of suspension in the last period for which figures are available. [170618]

**Ann Keen:** The number of doctors employed in the NHS in England who were suspended (now referred to as excluded), for the period of April 2006 to March 2007 was:

77 new exclusions, of which

62 are now concluded, and

15 are still ongoing.

Information on the pay status of doctors who are excluded from work is not held centrally; however the exclusion procedure, set out in detail in Part II of the 'Maintaining High Professional Standards' national framework introduced in 2005, is usually on full pay (paragraph 25). Under certain exceptional circumstances a doctor may be excluded without pay; however, no doctor would be excluded on part pay.

The average length of exclusion of the 62 concluded cases mentioned above was 15 weeks.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS doctors are suspended, broken down by reason for suspension. [170619]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following information is taken from the National Clinical Assessment Service Register of Exclusions and Suspensions as at 7 December 2007 and relate to all medical practitioners in the national health service and foundation trusts for England, who are currently excluded or suspended (for any duration).

There are 120 suspensions as at 7 December 2007. Around three-quarters of these suspensions fall under the category of conduct/suitability, the other quarter (approximately) of suspensions fall under the category of either capability/efficiency, health or critical incident.

### Drugs: Death

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died from drug overdoses while on hard drug substitutes in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [170669]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Egton Medical Information Systems: Prescriptions

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the ethical propriety of Egton Medical Information Systems having a facility to direct prescriptions to Pharmacy2U; and if he will make a statement; [170318]

(2) what controls there are on general practitioners and other primary care staff directing prescriptions to particular pharmacies. [170320]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Matters of ethical propriety are primarily for the relevant professional bodies. I expect all health professionals to maintain the highest standards in delivering national health service services. The General Medical Council's "Good Medical Practice" and "Good Practice in Prescribing Medicines" make it clear that patients should be free to choose from which pharmacy to have their prescribed medicines dispensed.

In addition, the regulations supporting the nomination of a dispenser by patients as part of the Electronic Prescription Service provide safeguards to stop primary care contractors from seeking to persuade patients to nominate a particular dispenser.

### Elderly: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he intends the *(a)* health and *(b)* social care regulators to begin looking for evidence of nutritional screening in their assessments of local services as stated on page 28 of his Department's document, Improving Nutritional Care; what they will use as evidence of nutritional screening; whether they intend to publicly identify those organisations that do not have evidence of nutritional screening; whether any other penalties will be available to the regulators to impose on those local services which do not have evidence of nutritional screening; and if he will make a statement; [170060]

(2) if he will provide the evidential basis for the statement that nutritional screening is beginning to be implemented in hospitals and care homes, as stated on page 22 of his Department's document, Improving Nutritional Care. [170062]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Healthcare Commission (HCC) have advised that it currently collects data on nutritional screening in national health service organisations as part of the annual health check process, with all the powers to penalise they are entitled to. Nutritional screening is measured against the core standards relevant to Dignity in Care—these include core standards C15a and 15b on nutrition. The HCC will also advise strategic health authorities to carry on working with trusts at a local level to facilitate improvement in services for older people.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) will use its annual quality assurance assessment to ask all providers to confirm that they carry out nutritional screening for people at risk of malnutrition. Where evidence raises concern about nutrition and malnutrition, it will ensure that this is fully explored during the next inspection of the service. CSCI could also make statutory requirements if it felt the wellbeing of people who use services are at risk.

### Food: Advertising

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the regulation of advertising of unhealthy food to children; and if he will make a statement. [171767]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The current rules on advertising and promotion of food and drink high in fat, salt and sugar to children are being held under review by Government. The company Thomson Intermedia have been contracted by the Department to collect and analyse data on food and drink advertising across a range of broadcast and non-broadcast media. This data and analysis will be used by the Department to produce a report on changes to the advertising landscape since 2003, as part of their ongoing monitoring of food promotion to children.

### General Practitioners: Wakefield

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs were practising in Wakefield constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available; and how many GP premises have been opened in Wakefield constituency since 1997. [173593]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, information relating to the Wakefield, Kirklees and Calderdale primary care trusts (PCTs) has been set out in the following table. The Calderdale PCT is included in the 2006 data for comparability purposes as Calderdale and Kirklees were one health authority together in 1997.

*General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) by selected areas, as at 1997 and 2006*

| | | Number (headcount) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1997* | *2006* |
| 5J6 | Calderdale PCT | n/a | 112 |
| 5N2 | Kirklees PCT | n/a | 250 |
| 5N3 | Wakefield District PCT | n/a | 234 |
| QDT | Calderdale and Kirklees HA | 304 | n/a |
| QDQ | Wakefield Health Care | 183 | n/a |

n/a = data not available

*Notes:*

1. Data presented for organisations in existence in the specified years.
2. Data as at 1 October 1997 and 30 September 2006.
3. Calderdale PCT is included for comparability purposes with the former Calderdale and Kirklees Health Authority

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Information relating to general practitioner premises which have opened in the Wakefield PCT area is not held centrally. This can instead be obtained direct from the PCT concerned.

### HIV Infection: EC Countries

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on plans to increase the awareness of young people of the risk of catching HIV. [169516]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with his European counterparts about HIV and young people. European health department officials, including the Department of Health, have considered the need for action to increase awareness of HIV in young people and other vulnerable groups through meetings of the European Commission's AIDS Think Tank. The last meeting was 15-16 November 2007.

### Hospital Wards

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Nightingale wards were converted to modern accommodation in hospitals in England in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available; and how many Nightingale wards there were in total in each financial year over the same period. [162239]

**Ann Keen:** Data are not collected centrally in the format requested.

Information on the number of Nightingale wards is collected annually.

In 2001, a one-off national health service estates survey found 1,115 Nightingale wards in use. Since then, data has been collected using the estates-related information collection, which reports the following numbers. Data submission is no longer mandatory and therefore information beyond 2005-06 has not been included. Data were not collected prior to 2001.

*Total Nightingale wards in use*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 694 |
| 2003-04 | 495 |
| 2004-05 | 377 |
| 2005-06 | 165 |

The data were collected from the NHS and then validated by NHS Estates.

### Hospitals: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to spend in each year between 2007-08 and 2010-11 on deep cleaning hospitals. [165720]

**Ann Keen:** For information on funding in 2007-08, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written ministerial statement of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 135WS, which sets out that, across the NHS, £57 million will be spent on deep cleans.

Funding for cleaning will continue to be included in future primary care trust (PCT) allocations. It is for PCTs and trusts to agree the most appropriate ongoing cleaning programme for their local circumstances, including deep cleaning.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date strategic health authorities will report to his Department on progress on hospital deep cleaning programmes in their areas. [167741]

**Ann Keen:** We will be able to confirm in the spring that deep cleans have been completed.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to give matrons and ward sisters the powers *(a)* to report cleaning contractors and safety concerns directly to hospital boards, *(b)* to order additional cleaning and *(c)* to send out a message that contractors must meet the highest standards of cleanliness or lose their contract. [167805]

**Ann Keen:** The chief nursing officer and the director general of national health service finance, performance and operations wrote to all chief executives of strategic health authorities, NHS trusts and foundation trusts on 1 November 2007 setting out the requirements for local systems to ensure regular reporting to trust boards and for an escalation system to allow nursing staff to raise their concerns.

A new quarterly reporting requirement will be introduced by amending the existing provisions of the code of practice for the prevention and control of health care associated infections, to ensure that concerns relating to cleanliness are reported to the board.

The chief nursing officer and director general of NHS finance, performance and operations' letter of 1 November 2007 also set out clearly the expectations around enhancing the nursing role in cleaning. This included ensuring nurses have the ability to request additional cleaning. Trusts can already give matrons the authority to withhold payments from cleaning service providers and, ultimately, to recommend termination of the contract. Trusts should already be taking steps to instigate any changes to ensure these expectations become reality, including where necessary agreeing changes to contracts.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional funds he has provided to hospital matrons to order additional cleaning. [167806]

**Ann Keen:** Funding for cleaning is already included in primary care trust allocations. In addition, £50 million has been made available for strategic health authority (SHA) directors of nursing to spend on tackling healthcare associated infections in 2007-08 as well as £57 million which has been made available through SHAs for deep cleans in 2007-08. £50 million was also made available through the capital challenge fund to tackle infections in 2006-07.

The comprehensive spending review funding settlement includes £270 million per year by 2010-11 to tackle healthcare associated infections.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department gave to strategic health authorities to help them decide how much they should allocate for deep cleaning in 2007-08; [170184]

(2) from which part of strategic health authority budgets the money for deep cleaning announced on 21 November 2007 has been taken; [170185]

(3) by what date strategic health authorities will be expected to report progress across their regions on deep cleaning to his Department; [170187]

(4) by what date trusts will have to submit detailed deep cleaning plans, including costs, to their primary care trusts and strategic health authorities. [170188]

**Ann Keen:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement by the Secretary of State for Health on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 134-35WS. In addition, copies of letters of 1 and 29 November 2007 from the Department to strategic health authorities giving further details on plans for deep cleaning have been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff in each payband in his Department are working on the deep clean of the NHS. [162859]

**Ann Keen:** Within the Department, different teams within the Chief Nursing Officer's Directorate and the NHS Finance, Performance and Operations Directorate are involved in different aspects of the deep clean programme, for instance in policy development or performance management. As it is a front line delivery issue, the programme will be delivered by trusts and monitored by primary care trusts and strategic health authorities (SHAs). SHAs will ensure that all trusts have plans in place to deliver deep cleans before 31 March 2008.

### Hospitals: Food

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of food was per day per patient in an NHS hospital in 2006-07. [172031]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not collected in the precise format requested. However, in 2006-07 the average amount spent per patient meal was £2.83. This amount includes the cost of provisions and staff costs. Patients are expected to receive three main meals a day and the average total daily cost of providing food for hospital patients can therefore be estimated to be £8.49.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to spend in each year between 2007-08 and 2010-11 on *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile screening for (i) elective patients and (ii) emergency admissions. [165717]

**Ann Keen:** Funding to support implementation of screening of all patients for meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus will be reflected in future primary care trust allocations. Our central assessment of the cost of screening all admitted patients for

MRSA is £124 million per annum, but it is for local organisations to determine how to implement improvements to patient care, so actual spend will be based on local implementation decisions.

Prompt testing of patients who develop diarrhoea is crucial but we have not made any commitments to introduce screening for clostridium difficile because there is no evidence that it is clinically effective.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in the level of hospital-acquired infections since the introduction of subcontracting in hospital cleaning; and if he will make a statement. [165831]

**Ann Keen:** Mandatory surveillance of health care associated infections was not introduced until 2001 but prevalence surveys of health care associated infections were undertaken in 1980, 1993 and 2006. There has been little change in the prevalence of hospital acquired infections overall over the last twenty years.

The Conservative Government introduced compulsory competitive tendering in 1983, requiring the national health service to market test domestic cleaning, catering, and linen and laundry services on a regular basis. This Government lifted that requirement in 2000 and trusts must now benchmark their services before deciding whether to market test.

Current guidance on contracting for cleaning makes it clear that quality must be considered alongside cost when deciding how to provide cleaning services. Recent information suggests that there is currently no difference between in-house and out-sourced cleaning in terms of standards and outcomes.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts *(a)* were and *(b)* were not auditing compliance with policies on invasive procedures, as stated in his Department's chief nursing officer's Dear Colleague letter of 8 November 2007, on the national confidential study of deaths following MRSA infection. [166439]

**Ann Keen:** We are unable to name participating trusts as this was a confidential study and trusts co-operated on the understanding that they were doing so in confidence.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide a breakdown of the £140 million his Department was allocated in the comprehensive spending review to reduce clostridium difficile infections by *(a)* financial year and *(b)* anti-infection measure on which this money will be spent. [170182]

**Ann Keen:** This funding will be included within primary care trust (PCT) allocations to support PCTs to reduce health care associated infections. PCTs are responsible for delivering improvements to patient care, so actual spend will be based on local decisions. Information on the action we expect from the national health service will be included in the 'Healthcare Associated Infections and Cleanliness Strategy' which we will be publishing in early 2008.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide a breakdown of the £130 million his Department was allocated in the comprehensive spending review for the introduction of MRSA screening for all patients, increased powers for matrons and tougher regulation on infection control by *(a)* financial year and *(b)* anti-infection measure on which this money will be spent. [170183]

**Ann Keen:** The £130 million announced in the comprehensive spending review 2007 was for the introduction of Meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus screening for all patients. Primary care trusts are responsible for delivering improvements to patient care, so actual spend will be based on local decisions. Further details on implementation of this commitment will be included in the 'Healthcare Associated Infections and Cleanliness Strategy' which we will be publishing in early 2008.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason his Department has *(a)* made a commitment to screen patients for MRSA on admission to hospital, and *(b)* not made a commitment to screen patients for health care associated infections other than MRSA. [170186]

**Ann Keen:** This commitment is based on evidence that screening admitted patients for meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus can reduce infection rates. Equivalent data are not available for other infections. In relation to clostridium difficile infection specifically, expert advice is that screening of asymptomatic patients is unnecessary.

## Stem Cell Research

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* diseases and *(b)* conditions were treated using materials created by research on (i) embryonic stem cells and (ii) adult stem cells in each year since 1997. [169604]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Stem cell research offers exciting opportunities to develop new therapies for a broad range of debilitating conditions, some of which are currently incurable (e.g. neurodegenerative disease). However, at this time, the only clinical use of stem cells remains bone marrow transplants for cancer therapy, though a number of other adult stem cell therapies have entered early phase clinical trials.

The MRC spent £17.4 million on stem cell research in 2005-06, split 55 per cent. and 45 per cent. between embryonic and adult stem cell research. Much of this is directed at improving the understanding of stem cell biology to ensure effective and safe therapies can be delivered. In terms of clinical therapy, the MRC is funding work in Cardiff to look at transplanting foetal stem cells (and in the longer term human embryonic stem cells) for the neurodegenerative diseases Huntington's and Parkinson's (approximately £2 million), while two experimental medicine awards were funded in 2006 to move towards human trials in stroke and multiple sclerosis (both using autologous adult stem cells).

The MRC also currently supports a number of clinical trials on the treatment of leukaemias and other blood cancers involving the transplant of adult (bone marrow) stem cells.

### Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he expects his Department's programme to roll out a human papilloma virus vaccine to all girls to cost in each year to 2010-11. [172464]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The routine programme could cost up to £100 million a year and the catch-up programme could cost up to £200 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11. Exact figures will not be known until the procurement process for human papilloma virus vaccine has been completed.

### Infant Mortality

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the contribution which will be made by medical research to achieving the Government's public service agreement 2010 target to reduce infant mortality. [171937]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Strengthening the research and evidence base to help meet the 2010 health inequalities and infant mortality target was a recommendation of the "Review of the Health Inequalities Infant Mortality PSA Target" published in February. As part of this developing work, the Department has commissioned a programme of systematic reviews of the research evidence to identify and promote the key interventions most likely to contribute to meeting the 2010 target.

### Influenza

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of all representations received in response to his Department's national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [172777]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The draft version of "Pandemic flu: A national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic" was issued for public discussion and comments were reflected in the final version issued in November. We are not planning to place the representations in the Library.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information is being made available on the use of *(a)* anti-viral drugs, *(b)* facemasks and *(c)* stocking of home supplies in consequence of Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement; [164836]

(2) if he will make a statement on progress in the development of a strategy for the operational aspects of anti-viral allocation as a consequence of any future influenza pandemic; [164845]

(3) what steps are being taken to consider the prioritisation of *(a)* anti-viral drugs, *(b)* vaccines and *(c)* antibiotics in the event of a shortage of supply caused by any future influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement; [164846]

(4) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of a national stockpile of (i) masks and (ii) antibiotics for health professionals in preparation for any future influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement; [164847]

(5) what steps are being taken to ensure that the continuity of supply of *(a)* anti-viral stocks, *(b)* masks and *(c)* antibiotics in the event of any future influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement; [164884]

(6) what assessment he has made of the impact of increased demand for countermeasures against an influenza pandemic on the supply of *(a)* masks and *(b)* antibiotics; what steps he is taking to ensure that supply meets demand in the event of an outbreak; and if he will make a statement. [164974]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Vaccines, antivirals, antibiotics and facemasks are a key part of the Government response to pandemic influenza. The Government approach to the stockpiling and distribution of these countermeasures is covered in the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic, published on 22 November 2007. The lessons learned from Exercise Winter Willow have been published on the Cabinet Office website.

Stockpiling of clinical countermeasures is essential to ensure the continuity of supply and that demand can be met. For example, there is already a stockpile of antivirals sufficient to treat the United Kingdom's population up to a clinical attack rate of 25 per cent. The Government are planning to double the stock of antivirals, to cover at least half the population. We will continue to keep the level of stock under review in light of the scientific evidence, as we develop our business case. The Government also has a stockpile of 3.3 million doses of H5N1 pre-pandemic vaccine for health care workers. The science underpinning the further development and potential use of pre-pandemic vaccine is cutting-edge and has just been reviewed by UK and international experts. We are actively considering their findings and the implications for our policy to inform future decisions.

The antivirals stockpile should be adequate to treat all those who fall ill in a pandemic of similar proportions to previous ones in the 20th century but we recognise that some prioritisation will be necessary if the attack or consumption rates are higher than anticipated. Antiviral prioritisation has been considered with the Committee on Ethical Aspects of Pandemic Influenza, but final decisions can only be made when the pandemic emerges.

To be effective, antiviral medicines need to be taken within 48 hours of the onset of symptom. A National Flu Line Service is being developed to enable timely distribution. On contacting the National Flu Line Service, a clinical algorithm will be used to assess a caller's symptoms and determine whether or not they are eligible for antiviral treatment and/or need further care or treatment by a clinician. We are making use of and building upon normal delivery systems by asking NHS Direct, who already provide contact-centre based assessment and triage to callers, to lead on the development of the National Flu Line Service. We are engaging with other stakeholders on its development, including the NHS, independent contractors, and other existing contact centre services. Consultation on legal changes necessary to facilitate this system went out alongside the national framework. The national framework and its supporting guidance, will help trusts create effective local systems for coordinating the operational aspects of antiviral allocation with local partners prior to a pandemic occurring.

The Government are already making progress with work on the business case for facemasks to be made available to healthcare and social care workers during a pandemic and plan to purchase 34 million disposable respirators and 350 million surgical face masks for the use of health and social care workers in the event of a pandemic. The national framework, advises other employers to seek information on their obligations under health and safety legislation and to carry out local risk assessments to determine whether employees should be provided with facemasks. Stockpiling facemasks for use by the general public is not currently planned. Although the available medical evidence does not support the use of facemasks in all settings, we recognise that the public may want to have access to facemasks for their personal use. The Government will explore the approach that retailers are planning to adopt when stocking facemasks for sale to the public.

Exercise Winter Willow identified that there may be problems with managing the surge in demand for antibiotics. The range of antibiotics needed to treat bacterial complications arising from pandemic influenza has been identified and published in the form of Clinical Management Guidelines. Building on this, the Government plan to procure 14.7 million treatment courses of antibiotics to treat and prevent the complications arising from pandemic flu. That stockpile will enable us to give antibiotics to vulnerable symptomatic flu patients, such as those with chronic conditions and the elderly, in advance of the development of secondary complications, and to treat others in the community if they develop complications. The antibiotics will also be used in hospitals to treat the sickest patients and may reduce the length of hospitalisation. The procurement of both antivirals and antibiotics will be subject to emerging scientific evidence and to normal commercial procurement procedures to ensure that we purchase those products at the best price, and achieve value for money for the taxpayer.

This summer, Advance Purchase Agreements for pandemic specific vaccine were signed with GlaxoSmithKline and Baxter. These guarantee a supply of vaccine for the UK population as soon as the vaccine becomes available after the onset of the pandemic; decisions about vaccination strategies will only be made once the clinical impact of the disease becomes known. All decisions on prioritisation will take scientific and ethical issues fully into account.

Public consultation and information is at the heart of the Government's planning. The Government will be testing the public's reactions to many issues in pandemic planning and decision-making and gauge the level of information on specific issues, including the use of clinical countermeasures. Work continues on the design of a public engagement programme to facilitate this process, with the active participation of the public.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken to *(a)* strengthen and *(b)* codify links with international bodies in consequence of Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement; [164837]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Irish Government in consequence of the Exercise Winter Willow programme in the preparations for a potential influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [164838]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have taken steps to codify and strengthen our links at international level by engaging with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) at official level via regular international conferences, meetings, and ongoing exchanges of information about pandemic planning.

The United Kingdom is also represented at official level at conferences organised by the European Union, the WHO and ECDC and has been at the forefront of pushing for greater international collaboration and engagement in planning for and responding to a possible influenza outbreak as a result of the lessons learned during Exercise Winter Willow.

Since Exercise Winter Willow took place, officials from the Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety have met on two occasions with their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland to ensure consistent and robust pandemic influenza contingency planning.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in considering the development of a streamlined death certification process in the event of any future influenza pandemic as identified in Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement. [164843]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Committee on Ethical Aspects of Pandemic Influenza considered this issue following Exercise Winter Willow. We have produced draft guidance on how death and cremation certification can be streamlined and should be handled in the event of an influenza pandemic.

This was sent out for public discussion alongside the revised national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic on 22 November.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the role of the Scientific Advisory Group in the event of any future influenza pandemic. [164883]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The role of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) on pandemic influenza both before and during a pandemic will be to advise the United Kingdom's Government on scientific matters relating to the health response to an influenza pandemic and help in keeping the Government informed of any new developments in science and research. It is envisaged that this will mainly happen via temporary sub-groups of the SAG working on specific questions. Members may also be called upon individually to act as advisers and to provide advice on matters arising on which a member's particular expertise may be of assistance.

The SAG is currently in the process of being revised. This involves, among others, extending its membership to include a wider range of expertises.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the potential *(a)* use and *(b)* effectiveness of the internet as a mechanism for communicating with the public during any future influenza pandemic; what measures will be used to ensure effective communication with those who do not possess a connection to the internet; and if he will make a statement; [164889]

(2) if he will place a copy of the communication strategy identifying the best channels of communication with the public during any future pandemic influenza outbreak in the Library; and if he will make a statement; [164890]

(2) if he will provide an update on the development of protocols for effective sharing of national communications messages for *(a)* local and *(b)* regional use as a consequence of Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement; [164891]

(4) what assessment he has made of the improvement in public understanding of pandemic *(a)* risk and *(b)* policy as a consequence of Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement; [164892]

(5) what progress has been made on the production of a clear and agreed script for use in communications during any future influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement; [164893]

(6) for what reasons the role of the National News Co-ordination Centre in co-ordinating messages across Departments was not tested as part of Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement. [164895]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In spring 2007 the Department carried out targeted public engagement research to explore public understanding of specific elements of the "Pandemic Influenza: draft National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic". The findings from this research have been incorporated into the "Pandemic Flu: A national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic" published on 22 November. A more comprehensive public engagement programme, commencing in early 2008 will provide a detailed assessment of the public's understanding of the Government's assessment of pandemic risks and policies.

Conveying accurate, timely, consistent and credible advice and information to the public (including hard to reach groups), professions and business is a major strand of the Government's pandemic preparedness strategy.

Communication was an important part of Exercise Winter Willow and a wide range of Government Department and agency communicators took part in the exercise.

The News Co-ordination Centre operated as part of the exercise control in the exercise and played an integral role in ensuring that communications was tested at all levels of the exercise and was represented at all of the meetings during the exercise.

The lessons from the winter willow exercise—which have been published on the United Kingdom Resilience website—and the spring 2007 public engagement programme have been used in the development of draft communications scripts should the World Health Organisation (WHO) declare a pandemic. These scripts will be further researched and pre-tested as part of the comprehensive public engagement strategy.

The research findings from the public engagement programme will also be used to refine the Government's pandemic influenza communications preparedness strategy. This strategy will need to be adaptable to reflect specific situations and pandemic scenarios. The draft strategy will be available in spring 2008.

The communications strategy, currently being developed, will provide advice, information and campaign material to the widest possible audience, and will use a diverse and comprehensive range of communications channels including; digital print and broadcasting advertising campaigns, a national door drop leaflet and a national flu information line.

One of the objectives of the planned public engagement programme is to ascertain what communications channels including digital media are required to effectively engage with the public prior to and during a pandemic.

A copy of the communications strategy will be made available to the Library after the public engagement programme has started.

The Department will inform the Cabinet Office, the Health Departments of Devolved Administrations and the Health Protection Agency should the WHO declare a pandemic or update threat assessments. The Cabinet Office will alert other Government Departments and work with the Department to develop, update and circulate top line briefings via the Government News Co-ordination Centre. The Department will also alert health and social care organisations and professions in England through strategic health authorities and via the chief medical officer's established public health mechanism. Similar arrangements are in place within the devolved Administrations.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what definition his Department used of business as usual as part of Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement; [164894]

(2) when he anticipates publishing guidance on business continuity for health services during any potential influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement; [164905]

(3) what guidance has been provided to ambulance services as part of the UK framework for responding to an influenza pandemic; what mechanisms exist to deploy ambulances on the basis of urgent medical treatment; and if he will make a statement. [164909]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information included in the draft national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic, issued in March 2007, was used to inform the planning for Exercise Winter Willow. The draft national framework outlined the United Kingdom's planning presumptions, including those areas where we would intend to maintain business as usual as far as practicable.

Guidance on preparing acute hospitals, guidance for primary care trusts and primary care professionals on the provision of health care in the community setting, and guidance for ambulance services and their staff was issued for public discussion in March this year. The final guidance was published alongside the National framework for responding to an influenza pandemic on 22 November. They all contain contingency advice for planners. Draft guidance on preparing mental health services was also issued for public comment alongside the National framework.

The Department has also published guidance for ambulance services alongside the final version of the National framework for responding to an influenza pandemic.

The Ambulance Service has in place a scripted call handling system that identifies priority cases in order to respond to the needs of patients' clinical requirements.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in reviewing the reporting template for the collection of data as a consequence of Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement. [164896]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is assumed that the "reporting template for the collection of data" referred to in the question is the United Kingdom pandemic influenza main health report from the Department to Cabinet Office, a situation report for MICS32/COBRA.

In follow-up to Exercise Winter Willow, a working group representing the main stakeholders has reviewed and adjusted the reporting template. The revised template is currently being assessed to ensure that it addresses the issues raised during Winter Willow.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the involvement of the voluntary sector in planning preparations for any future influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement; [164903]

(2) if he will make a statement on the discussions he has had with national voluntary agencies on issues relating to any future influenza pandemic. [164904]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The voluntary sector is a critical partner and has been engaged in planning preparations at both the national and local level. In May of this year, Department officials met with voluntary sector organisations to discuss key issues, including how best the voluntary sector can help to respond to a pandemic; key roles will include supporting those that would normally use their services, but also those who become more or temporarily vulnerable in the event of a pandemic. These discussions in turn contributed to the updating of the National framework for responding to an influenza pandemic and the supporting guidance documents. Localities are also engaging with the voluntary sector, and are encouraged—through the national framework and supporting guidance—to involve voluntary organisations in planning preparations from an early stage.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms exist to ensure effective dissemination of best practice in workforce guidance arrangements during any potential future influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [164906]

**Dawn Primarolo:** NHS Employers is an organisation which has a key role in supporting the national health service on human resources issues and will ensure that examples of best practice are placed on the NHS Employers' website at:

www.nhsemployers.org

The discussion document called 'Pandemic Influenza: Human Resources guidance for the NHS', advises the NHS to work with other local partners including the independent sector providers, local authorities and voluntary agencies. Wider comments and examples of further local best practice are being sought before the guidance is published.

NHS organisations are advised to regularly review contingency plans for future influenza pandemics. Each strategic health authority has a nominated pandemic flu lead to support planning. They meet on a regular basis to share their experience and to discuss common issues.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms of reference are of the National Pandemic Influenza Working Group; on which dates it has met; and what the costs of running the group have been to date. [164835]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information relating to internal officials meetings is not disclosed.

### Lighting: Health Hazards

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the health implications for people with light sensitivity of banning the sale of incandescent light bulbs. [164341]

**Ann Keen:** No assessment has been made. The Government are aware of the need to consider health implications in the event of incandescent light bulbs being phased out and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is working to ensure that there are mechanisms in place to ensure that people have access to appropriate lighting.

### Marie Stopes International Conference

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech made by Andrea Duncan, manager of his Department's Sexual Health and HIV Division at the Marie Stopes International Conference on 24 October 2007; which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals were consulted prior to the speech; who wrote the speech; what input Ministers in his Department had; and if he will make a statement. [172428]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A copy of the speech made by Andrea Duncan, the Sexual Health Programme Manager at the Department of Health, at the Marie Stopes International Conference on 24 October 2007 has been placed in the Library. No organisations or individuals were consulted on the content of the speech. The speech was written by Andrea Duncan.

### Meningitis: Research

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government have allocated to research into meningitis since 1997. [170096]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Over the last ten years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a number concerned with meningitis are available on the national research register at www.nrr.nhs.uk.

The Department's expenditure on relevant national research programme projects during this time has been:

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 327 |
| 1998-99 | 926 |
| 1999-2000 | 690 |
| 2000-01 | 232 |
| 2001-02 | 25 |
| 2002-03 | 118 |
| 2003-04 | 411 |
| 2004-05 | 361 |
| 2005-06 | 777 |
| 2006-07 | 255 |

The Health Protection Agency has since 1997 carried out research funded by the Department into vaccines against meningitis B and C (pneumococcocal meningitis and haemophilus influenzae B meningitis). This includes conducting clinical trials on new vaccines for the United Kingdom schedule, the ongoing evaluation of vaccines already in the schedule, and the development of a new meningitis B vaccine. The total cost of this research has been £10.5 million.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Available MRC spend figures for research on meningitis are as follows:

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 861 |
| 2001-02 | 458 |
| 2002-03 | 478 |
| 2003-04 | 571 |
| 2004-05 | 393 |
| 2005-06 | 128 |

Earlier comparable figures are not available

### Mental Health Services: Hospital Beds

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dedicated beds were available for mental health patients in each year from 1997 to 2006; and if he will make a statement. [173281]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Data about the availability of mental health beds are shown in the following table. The year on year reduction in mental health bed numbers reflects the increasing provision by the national health service in England of treatment for patients with mental health conditions in primary care and community settings, without the need for hospital admissions.

*Average daily number of beds available for acute mental health services in the national health service in England*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 37,640 |
| 1997-98 | 36,601 |
| 1998-99 | 35,692 |
| 1999-2000 | 34,173 |
| 2000-01 | 34,214 |
| 2001-02 | 32,783 |
| 2002-03 | 32,753 |
| 2003-04 | 32,252 |
| 2004-05 | 31,286 |
| 2005-06 | 29,802 |
| 2006-07 | 27,914 |

*Source*:
Department of Health form KH03

### Muscular Dystrophy

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the initial clinical trial related to the research project into Duchenne muscular dystrophy will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the Government's future support for the project. [172809]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We understand that the trial 'Restoring Dystrophin Expression in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: a UK Consortium for Preclinical Optimisation and a Phase 1 Clinical Trial Using Antisense Oligonucleotides' is likely to have been completed by the end of 2008.

The Government are funding the trial to that end point at a total cost of £2.2 million. The prospects for further investment of public funds will depend on the outcome of the trial and on the strength and suitability of any bid for such funds that might be made.

### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence: Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on how many occasions his Department has requested that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence review its economic model for determining cost-effectiveness in technology appraisals; [172397]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the remit of its review of economic models for determining cost-effectiveness in technology appraisals; [173121]

(3) whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence proposes to review its economic model for determining cost-effectiveness in technology appraisals. [173122]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) methods in appraising health technologies are a matter for the Institute.

NICE'S guidance development processes are subject to periodic review, which includes public consultation. NICE is currently carrying out a scheduled review of its technology appraisal methods guide and has published a draft methods guide that has been developed following a series of workshops with stakeholders. The draft methods guide is now subject to a three-month public consultation closing on 29 February 2008.

These consultations are part of NICE'S routine process for ensuring that there is transparency in the way it conducts its work, and that stakeholders have a chance to feed in their views.

## NHS: Reorganisation

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research has been *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned by his Department since May 2005 on the reconfiguration of NHS services; and if he will place copies of this research in the Library; [162836]

(2) what plans he has to undertake further research on the impact of NHS reorganisation on *(a)* access to healthcare for vulnerable populations and *(b)* local economies. [164561]

**Ann Keen:** Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally. The Department has not undertaken or commissioned any research on the reconfiguration of services and currently has no plans to undertake further research on the impact of NHS reorganisation.

## NHS: Finance

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce further NHS Better Care Better Value indicators; which topics are being considered; and if he will make a statement. [165830]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is likely that the number of Better Care Better Value Indicators published by the NHS Institute will have increased to about 20 by the spring of 2008. A number of options for new indicators are being considered following consultation earlier this year and these are subject to an ongoing process of testing and development.

**Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 388W, on NHS: finance, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the increase in the number of part IX prescriptions dispensed since April 2006. [167655]

**Dawn Primarolo:** No specific assessment has been made as to the reasons for the increase in the number of part IX prescriptions dispensed since April 2006. However, between June 2006 and June 2007 the volume of part IX prescriptions increased by 4.1 per cent. compared with a general prescription growth of 4.6 per cent. for the same period.

## NHS: Foreign Nationals

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* foreign and *(b)* French nationals used the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [172902]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Successive Governments have not required the national health service to submit statistics on the number of foreign nationals treated each year. Therefore, it is not possible to provide this information.

## NHS: Managers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average wage was for each NHS management grade in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* 1997. [170595]

**Ann Keen:** Due to the very substantial modernisation of national health service pay systems since 1997 comparisons are not straightforward.

The average wage of each NHS management grade cannot be calculated because we do not have figures for the number of managers in each grade, only total number of NHS managers across a number of different pay grading systems.

Managers and senior managers in 1997 would generally have been on a variety of pay scales, including Whitley Council admin and clerical, typically on grade 6 and upward, and senior manger pay (SMP) grades, typically band 30 and upward. These are set out as follows:

*A and C grades 6 to 10*

| | Grade | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *6* | *7* | *8* | *9* | *10* |
| *From 1 April 1997* | | | | | |
| Minimum | 16,312 | 19,848 | 24,146 | 28,248 | 33,048 |
| Maximum | 19,085 | 23,219 | 27,163 | 31,777 | 37,175 |
| *From 1 December 1997* | | | | | |
| Minimum | 16,520 | 20,101 | 24,453 | 28,608 | 33,469 |
| Maximum | 19,328 | 23,515 | 27,509 | 32,182 | 37,648 |

*General and senior managers*

National pay rates for general and senior managers in place during 1997 are set out in the tables:

*General and senior managers in regional and district health authorities*

| | *Group* | *Range (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Region | Regional general manager | 56,350-81,410 |
| District | Group 1 | 50,710-73,240 |
| | Group 2 | 47,890-69,180 |
| | Group 3 | 43,820-63,540 |
| Unit | Group 1 | 43,820-63,540 |

*General and senior managers in regional and district health authorities*

| | Group | Range (£) |
|---|---|---|
| | Group 2 | 38,500-55,720 |
| | Group 3 | 34,740-50,400 |
| | Group 4 | 30,060-43,510 |

*General and senior managers in post-graduate special health authorities*

| Group | Range (£) |
|---|---|
| National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery | 43,820-63,540 |
| Eastman Dental Hospital | 43,820-63,540 |

*Family health services authority general manager*

| Group | Range (£) |
|---|---|
| General Manager 1 | 43,820-63,540 |
| General Manager 2 | 38,500-55,720 |
| General Manager 3 | 34,740-50,400 |

*Senior managers pay grades*

| Spine point | Flat rate salary (£) |
|---|---|
| 1 (max) | 48,820 |
| 30 (min) | 15,650 |

Managers and senior managers in 2007 would be on a combination of Agenda for Change, typically band 5 to 9, and Very Senior Managers Pay Framework rates. These are set out as follows.

Very Senior Managers' Pay Framework only covers strategic health authorities, special health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts. NHS trusts, including mental health trusts and foundation trusts, are not covered by the framework.

*Agenda for Change grades 5 to 9*

| | Grade | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 (8A to 8D) | 9 |
| *1 April 2007* | | | | | |
| Minimum | 19,454 | 23,230 | 28,036 | 35,760 | 70,974 |
| Maximum | 25,175 | 31,469 | 36,962 | 74,381 | 89,723 |
| *1 November 2007* | | | | | |
| Minimum | 19,683 | 23,458 | 28,313 | 36,112 | 71,646 |
| Maximum | 25,424 | 31,779 | 37,326 | 75,114 | 90,607 |

*Very Senior Managers' Pay Framework*

There is a "Pay framework for Very Senior Managers in Strategic and Special Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and Ambulance Trusts". April 2007 rates of pay are published in the Framework, copies of which are available in the Library.

## NHS: Pay

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 10 highest salaries paid by the NHS were in the latest period for which figures are available. [170601]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not collect information on individuals' salaries across the national health service.

There is a 'Pay framework for very senior managers in strategic and special health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts'. April 2007 rates of pay are published in the framework, copies of which are available in the Library.

NHS trusts, including mental health and foundation trusts, are not covered by the framework, but are free to adopt its principles.

## NHS: Reserve Forces

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of military medical reservists working in the NHS. [170589]

**Derek Twigg:** I have been asked to reply.

None.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on facilitating Territorial Army activity by NHS personnel; and if he will make a statement. [170599]

**Ann Keen:** There is a long history of the national health service supporting the volunteer reserve forces (VRF). This is of benefit to the individual volunteer, the NHS and the armed forces. We are keen for the NHS to support staff who are interested in being members of the VRF and the Ministry of Defence/Health Departments Partnership Board is currently considering how best to promote this.

## Nurses: Catheters

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visits on average a new user of *(a)* an indwelling catheter and *(b)* an intermittent catheter will receive from a specialist nurse within the first six months of receiving their prescription. [171198]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally.

## Nutrition: Fats

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has considered evidence from Denmark on the health effects of trans fats. [172034]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have asked the Food Standards Agency to review the health impacts of trans fats and potential for action in light of the measures taken in New York and Denmark. As part of the review, the Agency has sought the advice of the United Kingdom's independent Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, which has examined the most recent evidence on the health implications of trans fats. The Agency will report back with their findings and recommendations by the end of the year.

## Obesity: Surgery

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for bariatric surgery in England in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [171178]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The average (median) time waited for bariatric surgery in England during 2005-06 was 152 days.

## Patients: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement on page 19 of his Department's document, Improving Nutritional Care, that hospital food is now better than at any time since measurement began; in what ways the quality of hospital food is measured; when measurement began; and if he will list the results of these measurements for each year since measurement began. [170063]

**Ann Keen:** The statement that hospital food is now better than at any time since measurement began is based on the results of Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) assessments. These assessments commenced in 2002 and the results are published annually. The areas considered in the PEAT assessment have varied over the years, but have always included a core of questions related to the quality, availability and choice and temperature of food and beverages. The following tables show the PEAT scores for England from 2002-07; the scoring system changed in 2004 from three to five points.

| | *Green (good)* | *Percentage* | *Yellow (acceptable)* | *Percentage* | *Red (poor)* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Summer 2002 | 118 | 17 | 554 | 81 | 14 | 2 |
| Summer 2003 | 372 | 43.7 | 479 | 56.3 | 0 | 0 |

| | *Excellent* | *Good* | *Acceptable* | *Poor* | *Percentage Unacceptable* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 8.18 | 50.35 | 34.68 | 6.78 | 0 |
| 2005 | 32.43 | 51.5 | 14.8 | 1.3 | 0 |
| 2006 | 33.8 | 57.8 | 8.3 | 0.1 | 0 |
| 2007 | 46.3 | 48.5 | 4.5 | 0.5 | 0 |

*Source:* National Patient Safety Agency

## Prescriptions

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the Information Centre for Health and Social Care has made in its project analysing patterns of prescribing and compliance with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines, as stated on the Our Priorities for 2007-08 section of the Information Centre's website; whether the Information Centre provides a *(a)* data and *(b)* analytical service to any bodies other than NICE on prescribing behaviours; whether data on prescribing behaviours are made available at (i) doctor, (ii) practice and (iii) primary care trust level; whether the Information Centre has extended its data and analytical service to information on dispensing; what plans the Information Centre has to increase the (A) scope of and (B) availability of access to data on prescribing; and if he will make a statement. [170076]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Information Centre for health and Social Care (IC) provides a data and analytical service that enables National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) systematically to analyse prescribing behaviours in the context of their guidelines. This work has been integrated as a routine business service to NICE.

The IC also provides on request prescribing data from the prescribing cost analysis database and from a national edition of the ePACT system. Information from these sources is also made available to a wide range of bodies via its website.

Some prescribing data are available at primary care trust level, but not at doctor or practice level.

There is a project underway, led by the IC, to obtain data on a sample of practices to estimate the proportion of prescriptions which are not dispensed.

The IC is currently reviewing which data on prescribing should be made available in the future.

## Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to raise patients' awareness of prescription prepayment certificates. [171779]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has a portfolio of publicity material about prescription charges which is managed by the Prescription Pricing Division of the National Health Service Business Services Authority. This material includes a poster advertising prescription prepayment certificates. Periodically, the Prescription Pricing Division includes the poster in its regular mailing pack sent to all pharmacies, general practitioner (GP) dispensing practices and all other GP practices. The Prescription Pricing Division also carries out further promotional activities when the opportunity arises. In addition, the Department currently has a contract with the waiting room information services which supplies stocks of leaflets to participating GP surgeries.

The prescription form tear off section also provides information about prepayment certificates and help with the cost of prescription charges.

### Radiography: Manpower

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many radiographers are employed by the NHS in England. [171699]

**Ann Keen:** The latest published workforce census showed there were 14,564 qualified therapeutic and diagnostic radiographers working in the national health service in England, an increase of 2,793 (24 per cent.) since September 1997.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of radiographers required by the NHS in order to meet the Government's targets on screening. [171700]

**Ann Keen:** With regard to radiotherapy, the cancer reform strategy has committed an investment of £130 million in new equipment and staff. Workforce planning is a matter for local determination, as local planners are best placed to assess the radiography needs of their local populations. The Department continues to ensure effective planning frameworks are in place.

### Screening: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much additional funding has been allocated for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 to *(a)* extend the breast cancer screening age range to women aged between 43 and 73 years, *(b)* extend the age limit for bowel cancer screening to 75 years, *(c)* ensure that all patients will be receiving appointments with a specialist within two weeks for breast problems, *(d)* ensure that all cervical screening results will be available within 14 days and *(e)* increase the number of matrons to 5,000; [167803]

(2) by what date he expects that *(a)* all patients will be receiving appointments with a specialist within two weeks for breast problems, *(b)* all cervical screening results will be available within 14 days, *(c)* breast cancer screening will be fully extended to all women between the ages of 43 and 73 years and *(d)* the number of matrons have reached 5,000. [167804]

**Ann Keen:** In September, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced proposals for cancer services, extending the breast cancer screening age range to women aged between 47 and 73, extending the age limit for bowel cancer screening to 75 years, ensuring that all patients will be receiving appointments with a specialist within two weeks for breast problems and ensuring that all cervical screening results will be available within 14 days, and proposals to increase the number of matrons to 5,000 to help tackle healthcare-associated infections.

The Cancer Reform Strategy was published on 3 December and is available in the Library. It sets out the future direction of cancer services in England over the next five years. The strategy provides further information on the commitments made by the Prime Minister. We anticipate there being 5,000 matrons in post by May 2008.

Allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) provide them with funding to deliver all local and national priorities, and are not broken down into the cost of delivering individual commitments. The cost of delivering individual commitments will depend on local decisions on implementation.

### Slimming: Finance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which slimming clubs the Government are employing to help reduce obesity; how much has been paid to them to date; and what estimate has been made of the number of people who have *(a)* used their services and *(b)* lost weight as a result of doing so. [171692]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government do not employ any slimming clubs to help reduce obesity. It is up to local areas to decide the best types of treatments to provide for their own populations, in line with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children.

### Smoking: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent by primary care trusts for stop smoking services in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available; [172458]

(2) how much his Department plans to allocate to primary care trusts for stop smoking services in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [172459]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The amounts separately identified in primary care trusts (PCTs) initial resource limit allocations for the national health service stop smoking services are as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 41 |
| 2004-05 | 46 |
| 2005-06 | 51 |
| 2006-07 | 51 |
| 2007-08 | 51 |

In addition, the 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to PCTs separately identify funding to support the implementation of the 'Choosing Health' White Paper. For the two years covered by this allocation, £10 million is separately identified nationally to further support the provision of NHS stop smoking services, with the majority of the funding directed towards Spearhead PCTs.

Revenue allocations are made to PCTs which then decide how to use the funding. The Department does not centrally collect information on local spend by PCT for NHS stop smoking services.

Revenue allocations to PCTs post 2007-08 are to be determined. As set out in a written statement by the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 145WS, there is to be a one-year allocation for 2008-09.

### Social Services: Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he had with HM Treasury officials to discuss the settlement for social care in the comprehensive spending review; at which of those meetings the subject of payment for long-term care was discussed; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings. [164614]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There were a number of meetings between HM Treasury and departmental Ministers, and between HM Treasury and departmental officials over the course of the 2007 comprehensive spending review. These meetings involved discussions on a range of issues, including social care. It is the Government's policy not to publish details of comprehensive spending review meetings.

### Stem Cells: Research

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase (i) usage of and (ii) research into cord blood stem cells; and if he will make a statement. [172429]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The United Kingdom Government wish to see research using all sources of stem cells, including adult, umbilical cord and embryonic stem cells and have a long history in supporting such work through funding and a well established, facilitating regulatory system. Policy on the use of and research into stem cells is kept under regular review. The Government are considering a number of new initiatives in light of developments as part of the "10 year UK Stem Cell Initiative" published in 2005.

### Strokes: Health Services

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to announce the new stroke strategy. [170009]

**Ann Keen:** The new national stroke strategy was announced and published on the 5 December 2007. A copy is available in the Library.

### Waiting Lists: Wirral

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was in Wirral West constituency between GP referral and hospital consultation in the latest period for which figures are available. [171046]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the requested format. In September 2007, the average median waiting time for patients in the Wirral Primary Care Trust area waiting for a first outpatient appointment was 2.7 weeks.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* 10 to 13, *(b)* 14 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 17 year olds were (i) cautioned, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) given a penalty notice for disorder for purchasing alcohol under age in each of the last three years for which information is available, broken down by (A) police force area and (B) local authority area; [167979]

(2) how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for selling alcohol to young people under the age of 18 on (i) premises and (ii) off premises in each of the last three years for which information is available, broken down by (A) police force area and (B) local authority area. [167980]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested on prosecutions, cautions and penalty notices for the years 2004-06 are provided in the table. Data broken down by local authority area are not held by the Ministry of Justice.

The information requested on prosecutions, cautions and penalty notices for disorder issued for selling alcohol to persons under 18, broken down by police force area are provided in the table. It is not possible to identify from the data whether these sales were on or off licensed premises.

Data broken down by local authority area are not held by the Ministry of Justice.

*Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts, offenders cautioned and the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDS) issued for purchasing alcohol illegally, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2004 to 2006*[1, 2, 3, 4]

| | Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2004 | | | 2005 | | | 2006 | | |
| Police force area | 10-13 | 14-15 | 16-17 | 10-13 | 14-15 | 16-17 | 10-13 | 14-15 | 16-17 |
| Cheshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cumbria | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Essex | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greater Manchester | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Hampshire | — | — | 2 | — | — | 3 | — | 1 | — |
| Hertfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Humberside | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |

*Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts, offenders cautioned and the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDS) issued for purchasing alcohol illegally, by age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2004 to 2006*[1] [2] [3] [4]

| | *Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | | | *2005* | | | *2006* | | |
| *Police force area* | *10-13* | *14-15* | *16-17* | *10-13* | *14-15* | *16-17* | *10-13* | *14-15* | *16-17* |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Lancashire | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Merseyside | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Northumbria | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| South Yorkshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Staffordshire | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Surrey | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sussex | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thames Valley | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| West Mercia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wiltshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gwent | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| North Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| South Wales | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| British transport police | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| England and Wales | — | 1 | 9 | — | — | 14 | — | 2 | 8 |

| | *Offenders cautioned* | | | | | | | | | *PNDs issued*[5] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | | | *2005* | | | *2006* | | | *2005* | *2006* |
| *Police force area* | *10-13* | *14-15* | *16-17* | *10-13* | *14-15* | *16-17* | *10-13* | *14-15* | *16-17* | *16-17* | *16-17* |
| Cheshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Cleveland | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cumbria | — | 2 | 9 | — | 1 | 4 | — | — | 1 | — | 4 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Dorset | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Essex | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Gloucestershire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Greater Manchester | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Hampshire | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Hertfordshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 13 |
| Humberside | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Kent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Lancashire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 9 |
| Lincolnshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Merseyside | — | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | 7 |
| North Yorkshire | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 |
| Northumbria | — | 1 | 2 | — | 2 | 7 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| South Yorkshire | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Staffordshire | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | 7 |
| Surrey | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Sussex | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 5 | 3 |
| Thames Valley | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Mercia | — | 3 | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Wiltshire | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dyfed-Powys | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gwent | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| North Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| South Wales | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | Offenders cautioned | | | | | | | | | PNDs issued[5] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2004 | | | 2005 | | | 2006 | | | 2005 | 2006 |
| Police force area | 10-13 | 14-15 | 16-17 | 10-13 | 14-15 | 16-17 | 10-13 | 14-15 | 16-17 | 16-17 | 16-17 |
| British transport police | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| England and Wales | — | 7 | 25 | — | 7 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 62 |

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[1] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Where no defendants were proceeded against, cautioned or issued with a PND for illegal alcohol purchasing in a police force, it has been omitted from the table.

[5] The offence of illegal purchasing of alcohol by an under-age person was added to the penalty notice for disorder scheme on the 4 April 2005.

*Number of defendants proceeded at magistrates courts dnd the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for offences related to the illegal sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18, 2004 to 2006*[1, 2, 3]

| | Defendants proceeded against | | | Offenders cautioned | | | Penalty notices for disorder issued[4] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Police force area | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Avon and Somerset | — | 14 | 5 | 7 | — | — | — | 56 | 54 |
| Bedfordshire | 7 | 10 | 24 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 13 |
| Cambridgeshire | 4 | 9 | 27 | — | — | — | — | 11 | 29 |
| Cheshire | 20 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | — | 49 | 50 |
| Cleveland | 10 | 14 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 5 | — | 33 | 23 |
| Cumbria | 1 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | — | 23 | 21 |
| Derbyshire | 22 | 13 | 8 | — | — | — | | 8 | 30 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 12 | 8 | 6 | — | — | 4 | — | 82 | 115 |
| Dorset | 10 | 35 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 4 | 22 | 22 | 29 |
| Durham | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Essex | 2 | 8 | 16 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 120 | 94 |
| Gloucestershire | 1 | 5 | 10 | — | — | — | — | 42 | 54 |
| Greater Manchester | 180 | 117 | 160 | — | — | 1 | — | 127 | 211 |
| Hampshire | 9 | 11 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 67 | 109 |
| Hertfordshire | 8 | 3 | 40 | — | — | 1 | — | 3 | 41 |
| Humberside | 11 | 2 | 6 | — | — | — | 2 | 45 | 48 |
| Kent | 15 | 14 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 10 | 5 |
| Lancashire | 22 | 89 | 32 | 24 | 15 | 7 | 30 | 190 | 206 |
| Leicestershire | 10 | 27 | 45 | 7 | 2 | — | 2 | 46 | 59 |
| Lincolnshire | 4 | 11 | 10 | — | — | — | — | 26 | 57 |
| Merseyside | 19 | 16 | 34 | 11 | 4 | 13 | 2 | 73 | 127 |
| Metropolitan Police | 167 | 253 | 236 | — | — | — | 21 | 161 | 252 |
| Norfolk | 9 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10 |
| North Yorkshire | 22 | 3 | 68 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 11 |
| Northamptonshire | — | 11 | 13 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 39 | 34 |
| Northumbria | 51 | 79 | 41 | 1 | — | 3 | 1 | 48 | 84 |
| Nottinghamshire | — | 11 | 37 | — | — | — | 9 | 117 | 265 |
| South Yorkshire | 5 | 18 | 10 | 35 | 25 | 8 | 2 | 107 | 158 |
| Staffordshire | 5 | 20 | 23 | 7 | 11 | 2 | — | 19 | 75 |
| Suffolk | 1 | 3 | 4 | — | — | — | — | 19 | 21 |
| Surrey | 10 | 13 | 18 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 34 |
| Sussex | 4 | 4 | 33 | — | 1 | — | — | 63 | 216 |
| Thames Valley | 28 | 15 | 36 | — | — | 2 | — | 12 | 95 |
| Warwickshire | 26 | 7 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 3 | 5 |
| West Mercia | 5 | 19 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 34 |
| West Midlands | 45 | 76 | 74 | — | — | — | 6 | 114 | 143 |
| West Yorkshire | 21 | 15 | 17 | — | 1 | — | 4 | 72 | 105 |
| Wiltshire | 10 | 23 | 10 | — | — | — | — | 8 | 18 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 24 | 6 | 18 | 2 | 3 | — | — | 18 | 9 |
| Gwent | 20 | 16 | 21 | — | 4 | — | — | 20 | 50 |
| North Wales | 5 | 10 | 4 | — | — | — | 1 | 58 | 83 |

*Number of defendants proceeded at magistrates courts and the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for offences related to the illegal sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18, 2004 to 2006*[1, 2, 3]

| | Defendants proceeded against | | | Offenders cautioned | | | Penalty notices for disorder issued[4] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| South Wales | 34 | 55 | 72 | | | 1 | | 123 | 117 |
| England and Wales | 861 | 1,084 | 1,199 | 116 | 102 | 61 | 113 | 2,058 | 3,195 |

[1] Prosecutions data are provided on the principal offence basis. PND data are a count on PND tickets issued.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Covers offences under the following statutes. The Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A & B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1, the Licensing Act 1964 S.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17 and the Licensing Act 2003 S.146 and 147, which came into effect from 24 November 2005, so data prior to 2005 is not available.

[4] PND data covers the offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing act 2003 S.126

*Sources:*
RDS
Court proceedings database
Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Ministry of Justice

## Asylum Seekers Dispersal Programme

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which local authorities asylum seekers were dispersed to in 2006 under the asylum seekers dispersal programme; and how many asylum seekers were dispersed to each local authority in the programme. [163148]

**Mr. Byrne:** The following table shows the local authorities that asylum seekers were dispersed to as at the end of December 2006 under the asylum seekers dispersal programme; and how many asylum seekers were dispersed to each local authority in the programme.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns of those in receipt of support, by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

*Asylum seekers supported in dispersed accommodation*[1, 2, 3] *by local authority and UK Government office region, as at the end of December 2006*

| | | Number of applicants (including dependants) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Local authority*[4] | *Dispersed* | *Disbenefited*[5] | *Total* |
| *England* | | | | |
| *North East* | Darlington | 40 | | 40 |
| | Gateshead | 365 | | 365 |
| | Hartlepool | 5 | | 5 |
| | Middlesbrough | 605 | | 605 |
| | Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,245 | | 1,245 |
| | North Tyneside | 215 | | 215 |
| | Redcar and Cleveland | 100 | | 100 |
| | South Tyneside | 140 | | 140 |
| | Stockton-on-Tees | 360 | | 360 |
| | Sunderland | 280 | | 280 |
| | Total | 3,360 | | 3,360 |
| *North West* | Blackburn with Darwen | 495 | | 495 |
| | Bolton | 545 | — | 545 |
| | Bury | 510 | | 510 |
| | Hyndburn | 10 | | 10 |
| | Liverpool | 810 | — | 810 |
| | Macclesfield | 10 | — | 10 |
| | Manchester | 1,355 | — | 1,355 |
| | Oldham | 480 | — | 480 |
| | Rochdale | 405 | — | 405 |
| | Salford | 945 | — | 945 |
| | Sefton | 15 | — | 15 |
| | Stockport | 165 | — | 165 |

*Asylum seekers supported in dispersed accommodation[1][2][3] by local authority and UK Government office region, as at the end of December 2006*

| | | Number of applicants (including dependants) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Local authority*[4] | *Dispersed* | *Disbenefited*[5] | *Total* |
| | Tameside | 235 | — | 235 |
| | Trafford | 30 | — | 30 |
| | Wigan | 510 | — | 510 |
| | Total | 6,515 | — | 6,515 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | Barnsley | 525 | — | 525 |
| | Bradford | 740 | — | 740 |
| | Calderdale | 235 | — | 235 |
| | Doncaster | 665 | — | 665 |
| | Kingston upon Hull | 455 | — | 455 |
| | Kirklees | 790 | — | 790 |
| | Leeds | 2,035 | 5 | 2,040 |
| | North East Lincolnshire | 50 | — | 50 |
| | Rotherham | 780 | — | 780 |
| | Sheffield | 1,060 | — | 1,060 |
| | Wakefield | 400 | — | 400 |
| | Total | 7,745 | 5 | 7,750 |
| *East Midlands* | Blaby | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Broxtowe | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Derby | 425 | — | 425 |
| | Gedling | 15 | — | 15 |
| | Leicester | 695 | — | 695 |
| | Nottingham | 1,110 | — | 1,110 |
| | Rushcliffe | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Total | 2,255 | — | 2,255 |
| *West Midlands* | Birmingham | 1,835 | — | 1,835 |
| | Coventry | 795 | — | 795 |
| | Dudley | 655 | — | 655 |
| | Newcastle-under-Lyme | 30 | — | 30 |
| | Sandwell | 425 | — | 425 |
| | Solihull | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | 685 | — | 685 |
| | Walsall | 160 | — | 160 |
| | Wolverhampton | 805 | — | 805 |
| | Total | 5,395 | — | 5,395 |
| *East of England* | Broadland | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Colchester | * | — | * |
| | Epping Forest | 25 | — | 25 |
| | Hertsmere | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Ipswich | 10 | — | 10 |
| | Luton | 40 | 5 | 45 |
| | Norwich | 150 | — | 150 |
| | Peterborough | 205 | — | 205 |
| | Southend-on-Sea | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Tendring | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Watford | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Total | 450 | 5 | 455 |
| *Greater London* | Barking and Dagenham | 55 | — | 55 |
| | Barnet | 15 | — | 15 |

*Asylum seekers supported in dispersed accommodation[1, 2, 3] by local authority and UK Government office region, as at the end of December 2006*

| | | *Number of applicants (including dependants)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Local authority[4]* | *Dispersed* | *Disbenefited[5]* | *Total* |
| | Bexley | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Brent | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Bromley | 10 | — | 10 |
| | Camden | * | — | * |
| | Croydon | 55 | 5 | 55 |
| | Ealing | 15 | — | 15 |
| | Enfield | 225 | 10 | 235 |
| | Greenwich | * | — | * |
| | Hackney | 70 | 5 | 70 |
| | Hammersmith and Fulham | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | Haringey | 370 | — | 370 |
| | Harrow | 15 | 10 | 25 |
| | Havering | 5 | | 5 |
| | Hillingdon | 25 | — | 25 |
| | Hounslow | 55 | — | 55 |
| | Islington | 40 | * | 45 |
| | Kingston upon Thames | — | 5 | 5 |
| | Lambeth | 80 | 5 | 85 |
| | Lewisham | 25 | | 25 |
| | Merton | 15 | — | 15 |
| | Newham | 50 | * | 55 |
| | Redbridge | 90 | 5 | 95 |
| | Richmond upon Thames | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Southwark | 15 | — | 15 |
| | Sutton | — | 5 | 5 |
| | Tower Hamlets | 10 | — | 10 |
| | Waltham Forest | 45 | 5 | 50 |
| | Wandsworth | 10 | — | 10 |
| | Total | 1,325 | 50 | 1,370 |
| *South East* | Brighton and Hove | 20 | — | 20 |
| | Canterbury | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Dartford | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Hastings | 65 | — | 65 |
| | Oxford | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Portsmouth | 410 | — | 410 |
| | Reading | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Southampton | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Total | 520 | — | 520 |
| *South West* | Bristol | 370 | — | 370 |
| | Gloucester | 125 | — | 125 |
| | Plymouth | 365 | — | 365 |
| | South Gloucestershire | 70 | — | 70 |
| | Swindon | 170 | — | 170 |
| | Total | 1,105 | — | 1,105 |
| | Total (England) | 28,665 | 60 | 28,725 |
| *Wales* | Cardiff | 1,175 | — | 1,175 |
| | Newport | 440 | — | 440 |
| | Swansea | 865 | — | 865 |
| | Wrexham | 45 | — | 45 |

*Asylum seekers supported in dispersed accommodation[1] [2] [3] by local authority and UK Government office region, as at the end of December 2006*

| | | | *Number of applicants (including dependants)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *Local authority*[4] | *Dispersed* | *Disbenefited*[5] | *Total* |
| | Total | 2,525 | — | 2,525 |
| *Scotland* | Glasgow City | 5,010 | — | 5,010 |
| | Total | 5,010 | — | 5,010 |
| *Ireland* | Belfast | 160 | — | 160 |
| | Coleraine | * | — | * |
| | Lisburn | 5 | — | 5 |
| | Total | 165 | — | 165 |
| | Total (United Kingdom) | 36,365 | 60 | 36,420 |

[1] Provisional figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest 5 with * = 1 or 2.

[2] Excludes unaccompanied asylum seeking children supported by local authorities, estimated around 5,700 in September 2006. Excludes cases that pre-date the establishment of the asylum support system in April 2000, administered by local authorities under the interim provisions, estimated at up to 50 cases in December 2006.

[3] Excludes those in initial accommodation, 1,525 as at the end of December 2006.

[4] Only those local authorities where dispersed or disbenefited cases are resident are shown.

[5] Disbenefited cases are cases which were previously supported under the main UK benefits system and have been moved onto asylum support. Some of these cases have remained in the original social services accommodation.

## British Standards Institute

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British Standards Institute kitemarks for internet content control software had been issued and to whom pursuant to the initiative announced by her Department in December 2006; and if she will make a statement. [172392]

**Mr. Coaker:** The British Standards Institute kitemark will be launched in early 2008, and once it is launched companies will be able to apply for it. The Government welcomes the work done by all parties to develop the standard, and encourages companies to apply for it once launched.

## Crime

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many offences were recorded per 1,000 population in England and Wales in each year since 1997, *(a)* in total, *(b)* of violence against the person, *(c)* of sexual offences, *(d)* of robbery, burglary, theft and handling stolen goods, *(e)* of fraud, *(f)* of criminal damage and *(g)* of other notifiable offences, broken down by police force area; [166856]

(2) how many *(a)* violent crime offences, *(b)* car crime offences, *(c)* robberies, *(d)* burglaries, *(e)* thefts and *(f)* criminal damage offences there were per 1,000 head of population in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [166858]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data broken down by police force area for these offences are available from 2001-02 and are given in tables. Copies will be placed in the House Library.

As a result of the findings of two independent reviews of crime statistics in 2006, a number of changes have been made to the classifications of offences. Therefore all of the offence categories shown are based on the new classifications. Providing data for earlier years, where the requested data are not held on an electronic database, would entail disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Reorganisation

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the cost to her Department associated with reorganising her Department and creating the Ministry of Justice. [169695]

**Jacqui Smith:** Any costs incurred by the Home Office as a result of the creation of the Ministry of Justice and any subsequent reorganisation of the Department have been minimal.

## Extradition: USA

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations her Department has made to the US authorities in the last 12 months on the time taken to bring the three extradited former NatWest bankers to trial. [167024]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Home Office has made no representations to the US authorities. The trial date is a matter for the parties and the US judicial authorities.

## Human Trafficking

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to establish safe houses to which trafficked children discovered by police may be conducted. [172843]

**Mr. Coaker:** Any child found by the police whom they consider to be at risk of harm, are referred to local authority children services who have a statutory duty under the 1989 Children Act to ensure that their safeguarding and welfare needs are addressed.

As part of their action plan on tackling human trafficking, the Government will be shortly publishing their proposals for enhancing the provision of safe and sensitive arrangements for the care and protection of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, some of whom may have been trafficked.

### Identity Cards: Contracts

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what break clauses have been included in contracts *(a)* agreed and *(b)* under negotiation in draft form on identity cards. [167029]

**Jacqui Smith:** IPS is four months into a nine month procurement process for the National Identity Scheme Strategic Supplier Framework. Once this agreement is in place, further 'mini-competition' procurements lasting six to nine months will be conducted for specific contracts.

As part of the process IPS is in discussion on many detailed commercial principles (over 150) that will inform the eventual contracts put to bidders. These include principles on approaches to breaking contracts, however discussions are ongoing and no contract clauses have yet been provided to bidders.

### Personation: Publicity

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent in 2007 by her Department on *(a)* newspaper and print media, *(b)* online, *(c)* radio, *(d)* television and *(e)* other advertising to raise public awareness on identity fraud, and to advise on methods of preventing identity theft. [170663]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: The Home Office established the Identity Fraud Steering Committee (IFSC) in 2003 to work with public and private sector organisations, to identify and implement cost-effective measures to counter identity fraud, and to co-ordinate activity in this area.

The IFSC established an identity theft website:

www.identitytheft.org.uk

which provides advice to the public on how to minimise the chance of becoming a victim of identity fraud, warning signs to look out for, and help for victims. Home Office expenditure on the website in 2007 is nil.

The IFSC also produced an identity theft leaflet and poster. Over 13 million leaflets have been distributed since September 2005. Home Office expenditure for printing leaflets and posters in 2007 is £11,000. No expenditure has been incurred through other media channels.

### Police: Ethnic Groups

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police force recruits were *(a)* men, *(b)* women, *(c)* black and minority ethnic men and *(d)* black and minority ethnic women in each of the last 10 years. [171376]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: The requested data are for police officer joiners, and are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" which are available online and in the Library of the House.

The available data are given in the following table.

*Proportion[1] of police officer joiners[2] by gender and ethnicity[3] as at 31 March 1998-2007*

| | | | | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Date as at 31 March* | *Male* | *Female* | *Minority ethnic male* | *Minority ethnic female* |
| 1998 | 73.2 | 26.8 | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 | 74.2 | 25.8 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000 | 72.3 | 27.7 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 | 73.5 | 26.5 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002 | 73.2 | 26.8 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003 | 75.6 | 24.4 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004 | 69.8 | 30.2 | 5.0 | 1.5 |
| 2005 | 67.8 | 32.2 | 4.0 | 1.8 |
| 2006 | 67.4 | 32.6 | 3.7 | 1.7 |
| 2007 | 65.2 | 34.8 | 4.0 | 1.9 |

n/a = not available

[1] Based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals and the sums of constituent items.

[2] Joiners include transfers from other England and Wales forces, but does not include those officers returning after a period of secondment.

[3] Minority ethnic officers only, does not include those officers whose ethnicity is listed as "not stated". Ethnicity data are not available prior to 2003/04.

### Pornography: Internet

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures taken by internet service providers offering broadband connections to prevent access to images of child abuse. [172391]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government are very grateful to all ISPs that have implemented measures to block child abuse images. The great majority of consumer broadband connections are now covered, and I would like to encourage those ISPs that have not already done so to take the necessary action.

### Stop and Search

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many searches of *(a)* persons and *(b)* vehicles under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 were carried out by each police force in each year since 1997; and how many arrests for (i) possession of offensive weapons and (ii) other reasons resulted. [167002]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for the period 1998-99 to 2005-06 is in tables. Copies will be placed in the House Library.

Information on searches of 'persons' and 'vehicles only' cannot be separately identified prior to 1998-99.

### Telephone Tapping

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations are entitled to access data on telephone calls made in the UK. [162489]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: Public authorities able to obtain communications data using the provisions of section 22 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 are set out in section 25(1) of that Act and in orders made under section 25(1)(g).

Those orders are the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Communications Data) Order 2003 (Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 3172), the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Communications Data) (Amendment) Order 2005 (Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1083) and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Communications Data) (Additional Functions and Amendment) Order 2006 (Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 1878).

In relation to telephone calls, communications data includes information about the use of telephone services, such as billing records, and about the users of services, such as identifying the subscriber of a telephone number and their address. It excludes the content of phone calls and what individuals say or what data they pass on. Lawful interception of communications content can be authorised only by a warrant issued by the Secretary of State under section 5 of the 2000 Act or in other very specific circumstances permitted by sections 3 and 4 of that Act.

### Terrorism

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met the Director of Public Prosecutions to discuss counter-terrorism policy; and what discussions she has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on revising counter-terrorism legislation. [169702]

**Mr. McNulty:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has not met the Director of Public Prosecutions to discuss counter-terrorism-related issues since she took office in June 2007. However, we have undertaken an extensive consultation on proposals for forthcoming counter-terrorism legislation and this approach has been widely welcomed. The Director of Public Prosecutions has been involved in discussions at official level on issues relating to counter-terrorism legislation.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what remuneration was received by Lord Carlile of Berriew QC for his role of independent reviewer of terrorism legislation in each year since his appointment. [169694]

**Jacqui Smith:** Lord Carlile of Berriew received a daily rate of £452 in 2001 for his role of independent reviewer of terrorism legislation. This has increased since then to the current daily rate of £900.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Adult Education: Elderly

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to make future provision for people aged 65 and over to receive concessions for adult education courses. [167869]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

We recognise the importance of adult learning in meeting a range of personal, social and community needs and we know how much people, particularly older learners, value and enjoy their courses. The Government remain fully committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners and that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the work force.

Fee concessions for people aged 65 and over are at the discretion of individual providers. I must make clear that the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 do not bar providers from offering fee discounts for learners aged 65 and over. They allow for such positive action provided that it can be objectively justified.

I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on the effect of the provisions of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 on concessionary fees for adult education courses for people aged 65 years and over. [167872]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

We are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners, and that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the work force. Our strategy for World Class Skills and our reforms of wider adult learning are designed to ensure that everyone, whatever their age or background, has the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects and quality of life.

I must make clear that the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 do not bar providers from offering fee discounts for learners aged 65 and over. They allow for such positive action provided that it can be objectively justified. I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

### Children in Care: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* targets and *(b)* best value performance indicators (i) have been and (ii) are set and recorded for local authorities in relation to the number of children in care. [171513]

**John Healey:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not, and has not in the past, set targets or best value performance indicators in relation to the number of children in care.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171435]

**Mr. Dhanda:** With regard to Christmas cards, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on 1 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 495W, to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Corby (Phil Hope) to the right hon Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 21 December 2004, *Official Report*, column 1558W and to the reply given by the former Member for Shipley (Mr. Leslie) to the hon. Member for Huntingdon (Mr. Djanogly) on 19 December 2002, *Official Report*, column 948W. The figure for 2006 was £1,802.80 plus VAT.

The other information requested could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### Elections: Bedfordshire

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her answer of 25 October to Written Questions 160879 and 160880, on Elections: Bedfordshire, when she will take final decisions on the structural arrangements in Bedfordshire; and whether, as a consequence, there are to be district, town and parish elections in 2008. [161903]

**John Healey:** On 19 November, we issued the Invitation to councils in Bedfordshire to make proposals for unitary solutions for the rest of Bedfordshire, following my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's decision of 25 July, and further confirmed on 5 December, that she is minded to implement Bedford borough council's proposal, subject to their being suitable arrangements for the rest of the county. We will take final decisions on the structural arrangements in Bedfordshire as soon as practicable following receipt and analysis of those responses.

Any decisions on elections will be made as part of the final decisions on the structural arrangements for Bedfordshire.

### Fire Services: Contracts

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for contracts to be finalised for the *(a)* FireControl and *(b)* Firelink projects. [173293]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The FiReControl contract was signed on 30 March 2007. The Firelink contract was signed on 29 March 2006 and extended to include Scotland and Wales in June 2006.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum contractual periods are of the contracts for the *(a)* FireControl and *(b)* Firelink projects; and whether the contracts allow for early termination of the agreements. [173300]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The minimum contract term for FiReControl is eight years (expires 30 March 2015). There are standard termination clauses, either in event of contractors' default of 12 months notice by the Department.

The contractual period for the Firelink contract is 10 years nine months. There is provision within the agreement for early termination of the contract by the Department.

### Legislation: Commencement

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the implementation of the provisions of *(a)* the Greater London Authority Act 2007 and *(b)* the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. [171634]

**John Healey:** The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables commitments in the local government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" to be delivered. Section 245 of the Act sets out which provisions were commenced at Royal Assent on 30 October 2007, and which will commence on 30 December 2007. All remaining provisions will be commenced by Order. One commencement order has been made so far. This brought Part 1 into force on 1 November 2007. The intention is to make several such orders to fit the planned timetable for implementing relevant policies. The latest version of the White Paper "Implementation Plan" was published on 1 November.

### Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress her Department has made in discussions with housebuilders and manufacturers of building materials on the development of new materials for the construction of zero-carbon housing. [173562]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Through the 2016 taskforce, we are having constructive discussions with the Home Builders Federation and the Construction Products Association, the latter which represents the UK's manufacturers and suppliers of construction products components and fittings. The 2016 taskforce is looking to identify the barriers to implementation of the zero carbon 2016 target, and will put in place measures to address them.

### Local Authorities: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* targets and *(b)* performance indicators English Partnerships and its successor agency are developing for local authorities. [173304]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** English Partnerships is governed by nationally agreed policy objectives, priorities and performance targets. Its programme is delivered through a portfolio of local area-based projects, each focused on the specific local needs but which take into account regional and local objectives/priorities.

English Partnerships has no authority or powers to impose performance indicators and targets on local authorities.

The Homes and Communities Agency will be a partner authority for local authorities with regard to local area agreements and local improvement targets.

### Local Government Executive: Referendums

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many referendums have taken place on whether to establish an elected mayor since 1997. [173227]

**John Healey:** Since 1997 there have been 35 referendums held by local authorities in England on whether a directly elected mayoral model should be adopted. In 1998 a referendum was held on whether there should be an elected mayor for London. In Wales, where local government matters are devolved to the National Assembly for Wales, there has been one such referendum.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of total Government grant to local authorities in England was ring-fenced in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2007-08. [173332]

**John Healey:** Excluding funding for schools, the level of ring-fencing in 1997-98 was 4.4 per cent. On a comparable basis, the level of ring-fencing in 2007-08 is 10.5 per cent.

### Local Government Finance: Community Policing

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the local authorities which received central government funding for community/neighbourhood wardens are funding warden schemes since the ending of central funding. [173380]

**John Healey:** Support for warden schemes has now been pooled within local area agreements, which focus on achieving a series of public service outcomes agreed between central and local government. Information is not collected at the centre about the number and type of schemes that are being supported through LAAs.

### Local Government: Ipswich

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the local government restructuring in Ipswich, including the passage of secondary legislation. [171610]

**John Healey:** In the written ministerial statement I made to the House on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 65-69WS, I announced that we intend to ask the Boundary Committee to provide advice on Ipswich Borough council's unitary proposal under section 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

We are aiming to issue our terms of reference, including a proposed timetable for its work, to the Boundary Committee to enable it to begin its review early in the new year.

### Mortgages

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of how many and what proportion of first time buyers took out mortgages of 100 per cent. or more of the purchase price of the property in each year for which figures are available from 1997 to 2005. [173299]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Data on first time buyers (FTBs) using a mortgage is available from the regulated mortgage survey which is supplied to communities and local government by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. As the survey is a sample, data on the exact number of FTBs is unavailable from this source. However we can derive proportions from the survey and applying these to the total number of FTBs in the UK, as published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders, we can estimate the numbers.

The number and proportion of first-time buyers in the UK that took out mortgages on a home to the value of 100 per cent or more is shown in the following table.

*Number and proportion of FTBs that took out mortgages of 100 per cent or more of the value of the property, UK*

| | *Number* | *Proportion (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 43,300 | 8.6 |
| 1998 | 34,400 | 6.6 |
| 1999 | 38,900 | 6.6 |
| 2000 | 37,000 | 7.4 |
| 2001 | 36,200 | 6.4 |
| 2002 | 51,600 | 9.7 |
| 2003 | 16,300 | 4.4 |
| 2004 | 30,900 | 8.6 |
| 2005 | 35,100 | 9.4 |

*Sources:*
Regulated Mortgage Survey and the Council of Mortgage Lenders

### Motorcycles: Noise

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to give local authorities more powers to enforce noise pollution legislation in relation to off-road scrambling in areas which are adjacent to residential areas. [172875]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

Under part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a statutory duty to inspect their areas for existing, potential and recurring statutory nuisances from time to time. They are also required to take reasonable and practicable steps to investigate complaints of statutory nuisance and to issue an abatement notice where it is satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, or may occur or recur. Local authorities may also seize noise-making equipment.

Noise from off-road vehicles on premises can constitute a statutory nuisance. Premises can include land and beaches and, in the case of stationery vehicles, streets. Off-road vehicles can also be seized as noise-making equipment.

A statutory nuisance materially affects someone's reasonable use of their home and/or is prejudicial to their health, as assessed by the local authority on a case-by-case basis.

Off-road vehicles driven illegally or in a careless or anti-social manner (that is causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress) may be seized by the police under section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 powers. A new guidance document was published in November 2005 and sent to all chief police officers.

## Railways

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171266]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1648-49W.

## Regeneration: Finance

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what financial allocation has been made to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund for the next three years, split by local authority; and if she will make a statement; [173391]

(2) what allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund was made in 2007-08, split by local authority; and if she will make a statement. [173392]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: As I announced to the House on 6 December, £1.5 billion has been allocated to authorities to provide additional resources to tackle high levels of worklessness and low levels of enterprise. 66 local authority districts have qualified to receive an allocation under the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) and a further 21 authorities that currently receive Neighbourhood Renewal funding will receive two years transitional payments as they have not qualified for WNF. A full breakdown of allocations over the next three years is tabled as follows.

| | *WNF allocation* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *LA name* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 1,424,308 | 1,608,297 | 1,652,559 |
| Barnsley | 6,142,540 | 7,485,021 | 7,807,977 |
| Barrow-in-Furness | 2,362,517 | 2,950,419 | 3,091,848 |
| Birmingham | 34,117,370 | 39,505,342 | 40,801,509 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 3,813,706 | 4,585,094 | 4,770,664 |
| Blackpool | 4,171,949 | 5,076,498 | 5,294,102 |
| Blyth Valley | 1,000,000 | 1,163,804 | 1,252,900 |
| Bolsover | 2,047,716 | 2,440,522 | 2,535,018 |
| Bolton | 5,670,488 | 6,732,623 | 6,988,137 |
| Bradford | 11,989,523 | 13,467,077 | 13,822,527 |
| Brent | 2,393,293 | 2,872,122 | 2,987,313 |
| Burnley | 2,150,837 | 2,559,916 | 2,658,326 |
| Camden | 4,460,241 | 4,925,113 | 5,036,946 |
| Chesterfield | 1,020,499 | 1,496,846 | 1,611,439 |
| Copeland | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Derwentside | 1,997,329 | 2,361,450 | 2,449,045 |
| Doncaster | 7,989,376 | 9,271,130 | 9,579,478 |
| Easington | 6,342,307 | 7,603,428 | 7,906,812 |
| Gateshead | 5,247,872 | 6,254,917 | 6,497,179 |
| Great Yarmouth | 2,066,453 | 2,485,898 | 2,586,803 |
| Greenwich | 4,538,965 | 5,169,844 | 5,321,613 |
| Hackney | 12,037,270 | 13,146,173 | 13,412,939 |
| Halton | 5,022,944 | 5,861,734 | 6,063,519 |
| Haringey | 6,833,721 | 7,821,441 | 8,059,054 |
| Hartlepool | 4,502,180 | 5,378,345 | 5,589,121 |
| Hastings | 2,184,780 | 2,690,517 | 2,812,181 |
| Hyndburn | 1,048,216 | 1,416,732 | 1,505,385 |
| Islington | 6,608,388 | 7,289,659 | 7,453,551 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 11,441,948 | 13,185,756 | 13,605,259 |
| Knowsley | 9,360,352 | 10,896,518 | 11,266,069 |
| Lambeth | 3,351,144 | 3,755,055 | 3,852,223 |
| Leicester | 7,476,516 | 8,802,087 | 9,120,975 |
| Liverpool | 29,187,128 | 34,109,623 | 35,293,812 |
| Manchester | 25,873,157 | 29,581,569 | 30,473,690 |
| Middlesbrough | 7,420,872 | 8,532,694 | 8,806,162 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 8,285,970 | 9,825,625 | 10,196,015 |
| Newham | 13,246,752 | 13,246,752 | 13,246,752 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 3,935,360 | 4,489,778 | 4,623,152 |
| Nottingham | 10,913,134 | 12,036,531 | 12,306,784 |
| Oldham | 5,161,277 | 6,079,682 | 6,300,620 |
| Pendle | 1,232,063 | 1,624,098 | 1,718,408 |
| Preston | 2,621,383 | 3,139,097 | 3,263,642 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 3,894,365 | 4,756,472 | 4,963,867 |
| Rochdale | 5,317,162 | 6,256,234 | 6,482,143 |
| Salford | 8,692,991 | 10,143,772 | 10,492,781 |
| Sandwell | 8,704,358 | 9,681,476 | 9,916,538 |
| Sedgefield | 2,099,339 | 2,799,198 | 2,967,561 |
| Sefton | 6,199,636 | 7,516,350 | 7,833,108 |
| Sheffield | 11,259,780 | 13,282,727 | 13,769,380 |
| South Tyneside | 7,124,500 | 8,386,996 | 8,690,711 |
| Southwark | 7,086,778 | 7,361,823 | 7,427,990 |
| St. Helens | 4,498,406 | 5,377,289 | 5,588,719 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 3,909,650 | 4,698,048 | 4,887,710 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 7,841,204 | 9,492,884 | 9,890,223 |
| Sunderland | 8,589,944 | 10,455,641 | 10,904,466 |
| Tameside | 3,433,239 | 4,276,961 | 4,479,933 |
| Thanet | 1,003,105 | 1,471,333 | 1,583,973 |
| Tower Hamlets | 10,279,197 | 11,005,124 | 11,179,758 |
| Walsall | 5,444,081 | 6,389,562 | 6,617,013 |
| Wansbeck | 2,315,917 | 2,868,222 | 3,001,088 |
| Wear Valley | 2,157,765 | 2,510,949 | 2,595,913 |
| West Somerset | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Westminster | 3,010,277 | 3,417,611 | 3,515,602 |
| Wigan | 5,903,485 | 7,321,622 | 7,662,778 |

| | WNF allocation | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *LA name* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Wirral | 8,188,024 | 9,841,046 | 10,238,708 |
| Wolverhampton | 6,113,889 | 7,307,406 | 7,594,527 |
| | | | 507,900,000 |
| *Transitional Authorities* | | | |
| Barnet | 600,000 | 240,000 | 0 |
| Brighton and Hove | 1,260,358 | 504,143 | 0 |
| Bristol, City of | 3,659,694 | 1,463,878 | 0 |
| Coventry | 3,173,730 | 1,269,492 | 0 |
| Croydon | 600,000 | 240,000 | 0 |
| Derby | 2,581,150 | 1,032,460 | 0 |
| Dudley | 1,103,423 | 441,369 | 0 |
| Ealing | 830,677 | 332,271 | 0 |
| Enfield | 892,605 | 357,042 | 0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 600,000 | 240,000 | 0 |
| Kirklees | 2,926,867 | 1,170,747 | 0 |
| Leeds | 8,963,140 | 3,585,256 | 0 |
| Lewisham | 1,177,203 | 470,881 | 0 |
| Mansfield | 1,318,551 | 527,420 | 0 |
| North Tyneside | 1,475,318 | 590,127 | 0 |
| Norwich | 1,180,635 | 472,254 | 0 |
| Penwith | 600,000 | 240,000 | 0 |
| Plymouth | 1,695,425 | 678,170 | 0 |
| Rotherham | 2,106,934 | 842,774 | 0 |
| Wakefield | 2,669,677 | 1,067,871 | 0 |
| Waltham Forest | 1,225,675 | 490,270 | 0 |
| | 464,400,000 | 507,800,000 | |

## Regional Planning and Development: East of England

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further stages and consultations remain to be undertaken in relation to the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy before it is finalised. [173308]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Following the current consultation on the Habitats Directive Assessment and Further Proposed Changes which ends on December 18, Ministers will consider the representations on the two sets of proposed changes and publish the final version of the Alterations to the Regional Spatial Strategy, incorporating any final changes to reflect consideration of the representations. The current timetable anticipates publication of the final alterations in early 2008.

## Repairs and Maintenance: Finance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by *(a)* how many percentage points and *(b)* how much the average management and maintenance allowances changed in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [163510]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The changes in average management and maintenance allowances per dwelling are shown in the following table:

| | *Management and maintenance allowance* | *Difference (£)* | *Difference (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,316.28 | — | — |
| 2005-06 | 1,461.52 | +145.24 | 11.0 |
| 2006-07 | 1,599.47 | +137.95 | 9.4 |
| 2007-08 | 1,660.01 | +60.54 | 3.8 |

## Safer Stronger Communities Fund

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding was made available via the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; what allocation is planned for 2008-09, split by local authority; and if she will make a statement. [173393]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: Full details of the local authority split for 2008-09 can be found on the Communities and Local Government website. The overall allocation is £112,848,000.

From 2008-09 funding that was previously paid through the Safer Stronger Communities Fund will be part of the Area Based Grant. Area Based Grant is a non-ringfenced general grant, which means local authorities are free to use the totality of the grant as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas, including the achievement of their new local area agreement targets.

The overall SSCF allocations for English local authorities for previous years were as follows:

| | *Overall SSCF allocations (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 69,862,703 |
| 2007-08 | 158,946,201 |

## Stamp Duties

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of first time buyers in England purchased properties in the three or four per cent. stamp duty band in each of the last three years. [173311]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Data on first time buyers (FTBs) using a mortgage is available from the Regulated Mortgage Survey which is supplied to Communities and Local Government by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. However, as the survey is a sample, data on the number of FTBs for England is unavailable. However we can still derive proportions.

The proportion of first time buyers in England that purchased properties in the 3 and 4 per cent. stamp duty bands is shown in the following table.

*Proportion of first time buyers that purchased properties in the 3 or 4 per cent. stamp duty bands, England*

| | Percentage | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *3 per cent. stamp duty band* | *4 per cent. stamp duty band* | *3 or 4 per cent. stamp duty bands* |
| 2004 | 5.6 | 0.9 | 6.4 |
| 2005 | 5.7 | 0.7 | 6.4 |
| 2006 | 6.6 | 0.8 | 7.4 |

*Source:*
Regulated Mortgage Survey

### Supporting People Programme

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written statement of 6 December, on Supporting People, at what time the *(a)* table of indicative Supporting People grant allocations and *(b)* copy of the consultation response were placed in the Library. [173412]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* In accordance with parliamentary guidance on Deposited Papers, the table of indicative Supporting People grant allocations and copy of the consultation response were sent electronically to the Libraries.

The consultation response was sent at 1.08 pm; the table of indicative Supporting People grant allocations at 1.12 pm.

### Travelling People

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unauthorised Gypsy and Travellers' *(a)* caravans and *(b)* developments there were in each (i) January and (ii) July since 2001 in (A) England and (B) each government office region in England. [171638]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Communities and Local Government publish data on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on authorised public and private sites, and unauthorised encampments and developments twice yearly.

The latest publication "Count of Gypsy Caravans on 19 July 2007: Last Five Counts" is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingmanagementcare/gypsiesandtravellers/gypsyandtravellersitedataandstat/

The following table shows the levels of unauthorised caravans, encampments and developments in England since 2001:

| | | *NW* | *NE* | *EM* | *WM* | *Y and H* | *East* | *SE* | *SW* | *London* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January 2001 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 76 | 43 | 191 | 207 | 117 | 993 | 443 | 387 | 146 | 2,603 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 48 | 38 | 157 | 118 | 73 | 555 | 291 | 260 | 98 | 1,638 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 28 | 5 | 34 | 89 | 44 | 438 | 152 | 127 | 48 | 965 |
| July 2001 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 176 | 84 | 304 | 319 | 187 | 714 | 827 | 644 | 91 | 3,346 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 123 | 79 | 252 | 186 | 138 | 367 | 608 | 555 | 74 | 2,382 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 53 | 5 | 52 | 133 | 49 | 347 | 219 | 89 | 17 | 964 |
| January 2002 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 114 | 79 | 432 | 329 | 137 | 691 | 458 | 371 | 163 | 2,774 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 48 | 79 | 388 | 182 | 96 | 239 | 285 | 187 | 133 | 1,637 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 66 | 0 | 44 | 147 | 41 | 452 | 173 | 184 | 30 | 1,137 |
| July 2002 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 155 | 127 | 367 | 340 | 164 | 1,005 | 752 | 499 | 90 | 3,499 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 97 | 123 | 333 | 211 | 117 | 386 | 546 | 395 | 53 | 2,261 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 58 | 4 | 34 | 129 | 47 | 619 | 206 | 104 | 37 | 1,238 |
| January 2003 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 128 | 10 | 313 | 322 | 147 | 952 | 628 | 428 | 100 | 3,028 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 84 | 6 | 266 | 153 | 89 | 248 | 411 | 321 | 42 | 1,620 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 44 | 4 | 47 | 169 | 58 | 704 | 217 | 107 | 58 | 1,408 |
| July 2003 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 126 | 93 | 379 | 363 | 165 | 1,190 | 962 | 558 | 143 | 3,979 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 93 | 87 | 318 | 210 | 130 | 405 | 599 | 400 | 73 | 2,315 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 33 | 6 | 61 | 153 | 35 | 785 | 363 | 158 | 70 | 1,664 |
| January 2004 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 120 | 105 | 256 | 413 | 174 | 1,172 | 736 | 425 | 170 | 3,571 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 77 | 96 | 195 | 203 | 111 | 250 | 351 | 228 | 83 | 1,594 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 43 | 9 | 61 | 210 | 63 | 922 | 385 | 197 | 87 | 1,977 |
| July 2004 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 184 | 129 | 396 | 418 | 276 | 1,288 | 764 | 568 | 209 | 4,232 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 158 | 118 | 294 | 263 | 209 | 466 | 343 | 425 | 101 | 2,377 |

| | | *NW* | *NE* | *EM* | *WM* | *Y and H* | *East* | *SE* | *SW* | *London* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unauthorised developments | 26 | 11 | 102 | 155 | 67 | 822 | 421 | 143 | 108 | 1,855 |
| January 2005 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 185 | 38 | 412 | 262 | 171 | 1,056 | 635 | 511 | 170 | 3,440 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 146 | 35 | 292 | 76 | 98 | 193 | 158 | 256 | 47 | 1,301 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 39 | 3 | 120 | 186 | 73 | 863 | 477 | 255 | 123 | 2,139 |
| July 2005 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 243 | 48 | 307 | 286 | 473 | 1,168 | 778 | 613 | 122 | 4,038 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 177 | 43 | 210 | 135 | 404 | 325 | 422 | 367 | 16 | 2,099 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 66 | 5 | 97 | 151 | 69 | 843 | 356 | 246 | 106 | 1,939 |
| January 2006 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 200 | 48 | 291 | 282 | 115 | 999 | 609 | 626 | 102 | 3,272 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 126 | 31 | 128 | 99 | 44 | 148 | 182 | 351 | 9 | 1,118 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 74 | 17 | 163 | 183 | 71 | 851 | 427 | 275 | 93 | 2,154 |
| July 2006 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 187 | 99 | 297 | 300 | 221 | 1,023 | 874 | 891 | 100 | 3,992 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 136 | 84 | 178 | 112 | 185 | 288 | 354 | 427 | 8 | 1,772 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 51 | 15 | 119 | 188 | 36 | 735 | 520 | 464 | 92 | 2,220 |
| January 2007 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 207 | 24 | 312 | 339 | 172 | 994 | 550 | 776 | 164 | 3,538 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 132 | 21 | 168 | 143 | 102 | 195 | 136 | 326 | 63 | 1,286 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 75 | 3 | 144 | 196 | 70 | 799 | 414 | 450 | 101 | 2,252 |
| July 2007 | Total number of unauthorised caravans | 240 | 74 | 284 | 343 | 274 | 940 | 786 | 905 | 131 | 3,977 |
| | Unauthorised encampments | 183 | 71 | 202 | 159 | 214 | 285 | 288 | 445 | 26 | 1,873 |
| | Unauthorised developments | 57 | 3 | 82 | 184 | 60 | 655 | 498 | 460 | 105 | 2,104 |

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Nitrates

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of whether farmers will be able to increase their slurry storage capacity to satisfy the requirements of the Nitrate Action programme; and if he will consider extending the period of implementation. [171201]

**Mr. Woolas:** We are currently undertaking a consultation on the implementation of the nitrate directive in England, which includes the Nitrate Action programme.

### Angling

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to implement the recommendations in the Net Benefits report on the development of the UK's recreational sea angling sector, in particular the recommendation that bass be considered as a recreational species. [172781]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Our plans to take forward the recommendations in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report "Net Benefits" concerned with inshore fisheries in England including recreational sea angling, were addressed in DEFRA's "Charting a New Course". These publications are available in the Library of the House.

These plans included a commitment to consult on measures to increase the number and size of sea bass available to benefit both recreational anglers and commercial fishermen. My decision not to increase the minimum landing size of bass was announced on 25 October. This announcement included a number of other measures to benefit bass stocks and recreational sea angling in general.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 860W, on angling, for what reason he did not launch a consultation on the draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy in November 2007; and if he will make a statement; [173003]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 860W, on angling, on what date the final draft of the draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy was approved for publication for consultation; and if he will make a statement; [173004]

(3) for what reasons the draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy was not published for consultation between January and March; and if he will make a statement; [173005]

(4) what factors he took into account when deciding the date on which to announce the Recreational Sea Angling Strategy; and which bodies he consulted while formulating the strategy. [173032]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy was developed with representatives from the following organisations:

National Federation of Sea Anglers

National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations

Department for Culture Media and Sport

Bass Anglers Sportfishing Society

Sea Anglers Conservation Network

Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee

Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee

Shellfish Association of Great Britain

Natural England

Environment Agency

CEFAS

Marine and Fisheries Agency

It was endorsed by DEFRA's Inshore Fisheries Working Group on 23 March 2007 and on 3 December 2007. I approved the draft strategy for publication. My priority in relation to sea angling was to make a decision on an increased minimum landing size for bass. I announced my decision on this on 25 October after which I launched a consultation on the draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy on 6 December, six days later than planned. The closing date for comments is 31 March 2008. A copy of the strategy has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Animal Feed: Prices

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the increases in prices of feed on the pig farming industry; [172998]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of worldwide increases in cereal prices on the livestock industry in England. [172999]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The higher feed costs in the UK are due to global cereals price rises following two successive lower wheat harvests and increasing demand for cereals for food, feed and fuel purposes. The impact, in financial terms, will differ across the farming sectors, as explained in our recent report "Implications of rising agricultural commodity prices". A copy of this report is available on the DEFRA website.

I am aware that the pig industry has been particularly affected by increases in feed costs as feed makes up a significantly larger proportion of their total costs. This is reflected in the report.

Projections of the aggregate measure of total income from farming have been published on the DEFRA website and the first full set of farm income statistics, including a breakdown by farm type, will be published at the end of January.

### Animals: Disease Control

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for the reduction in funding for county councils for trading standards officers to carry out animal disease control work; what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the change in funding on the enforcement of animal disease control; and if he will make a statement. [168187]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The bids received from local authorities this year for additional funding to support their work on animal health and welfare exceeded the budget available by over £1 million. DEFRA has therefore allocated the available funding within the constraints of the available budget.

Local authorities have been asked to discuss with their local divisional veterinary managers any necessary adjustments to the planned level of work under the framework agreement between DEFRA and local authorities.

### Animals: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he allocated to Herefordshire council for animal health purposes in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [172023]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The amount allocated to Herefordshire council for animal health purposes in 2006-07 was £128,319 of which £124,109 was spent. The forecast submitted through the divisional veterinary manager for 2007-08 was £136,100. The allocation is £119,768.00.

### Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months. [171248]

**Jonathan Shaw:** From information held centrally, the core-Department spent *(a)* £899,611 and *(b)* £11,152 on business and first class air travel respectively in the period October 2006 to September 2007 inclusive.

### Bluetongue Disease

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* new farms confirmed bluetongue infection and *(b)* farms were declared free of bluetongue in each of the last four weeks. [171914]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The number of confirmed cases of bluetongue in each of the last four weeks is as follows:

| *Week commencing* | *Premises* |
|---|---|
| 12 November | 2 |
| 19 November | 1 |
| 26 November | [1]0 |

[1] No new cases confirmed

As of 3 December, there have been 66 confirmed premises affected by bluetongue since the first case was confirmed on 28 September. None of these premises has yet been confirmed to be free of the disease. However, in the case of bluetongue, restrictions are lifted on the premises after the veterinary inquiry, and only the area restrictions relating to the protection and surveillance zones remain in place. Cases of bluetongue currently remain contained to the east and south-eastern parts of England, but, since disease is transmitted by midges, there is no use in restricting the individual premises.

## Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what side effects have been identified of the use of active vaccines for bluetongue virus; [171865]

(2) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on side effects of active vaccines for bluetongue virus. [171866]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are significant, potential risks associated with live bluetongue vaccines. Live vaccine strains can become more virulent than the field strain, produce new strains through re-assortment with the field strain and circulate in the midge vector. Live vaccines can also cause disease in some breeds of sheep (and potentially cattle), cannot be given to pregnant ewes (as they can cause foetal deformities), and can be a potential source of infection on mating and artificial insemination as the vaccine can be found in the semen of bulls and rams.

For those reasons, the use of live vaccines would not normally be considered as a disease control measure and the tender for vaccine we have issued states that a vaccine should be inactivated (killed).

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions could be imposed by the Food Standards Agency in relation to vaccinated animals intended for human consumption if active vaccines are used during a bluetongue outbreak. [171912]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Our recent tender for bluetongue vaccine stated that we would only use inactivated vaccine that had received a marketing authorisation from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. Such a marketing authorisation would certify that the vaccine was both effective and safe for use. The Food Standards Agency has advised that, provided such a marketing authorisation is received, there would be no food safety implications of the use of an inactivated bluetongue vaccine. Therefore, no restrictions would be put in place on the human consumption of bluetongue vaccinated animals.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what criteria will be used to determine whether the bluetongue outbreak warrants the use of vaccinations; [171915]

(2) when a vaccination programme for bluetongue would be able to start; and which areas would have priority; [171916]

(3) what plans his Department has to implement a bluetongue vaccination programme. [171917]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We are currently developing a detailed plan with scientific experts on bluetongue, representatives of the farming industry and others as to how a vaccination programme would work. This plan must be submitted to the European Commission by the end of January. We are also in discussions with the Commission and other affected member states about the content of that plan, which will set out how the Government and industry jointly intend to use vaccination and which areas would take priority. Although EU law provides that vaccination can only take place within the protection zone (currently East Anglia and the South East) we will keep under review with the industry whether to increase the size of that zone to allow vaccination to take place in a wider area.

In order for a vaccination programme to be fully effective next year, it will be important that vaccination starts as soon as the vaccine is available. Given that it can also take six to eight months for vaccine to be produced and made ready for use, we have tendered for between 10 and 20 million doses of vaccine. We are currently considering the bids made and we expect to place a firm order very soon, so we expect to have a vaccine ready by early summer.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government allocated to research and development of inactive bluetongue vaccines in each of the last three years; and how much has been allocated for research in each of then next three years. [171985]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The research, development and production of bluetongue vaccine is a lucrative commercial proposition and there are a number of private companies involved in this process, so there is no need for the Government to carry out such research. We have issued a tender to those companies to supply between 10 and 20 million doses of vaccine which sets out the technical specifications we expect a vaccine to meet.

This tender was based on the advice of experts at the Institute of Animal Health, which carries out general research into bluetongue, and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). These experts have also been assessing the three bids received. It will be a condition of any order for vaccine that the VMD issue it with a marketing authorisation confirming that it is effective and safe for use.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of individual vaccines required to control the outbreak of bluetongue at present levels of infection; and to which animals the vaccines would be applied. [171986]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have tendered for 10 to 20 million doses to ensure that the bank will be adaptable to a range of circumstances. Discussions on anticipated demand for vaccine are currently under way with the farming industry and we expect to place a firm order for vaccine very shortly.

We are currently developing a detailed vaccination plan with scientific experts on bluetongue, the farming industry and others which will address questions such as the species to be vaccinated. However, it is likely that all domestic susceptible species, for example, cattle, sheep, goats, farmed deer, camelids and zoo ruminants, in a given area would be eligible for vaccination, although it would be impractical to attempt to vaccinate wild susceptible species, such as wild deer.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the current cost is of individual vaccinations against bluetongue; how widely available the vaccine is; and if he will make a statement. [171987]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have tendered for 10 to 20 million doses to ensure that the bank will be adaptable to a range of circumstances. We are currently assessing the bids submitted and we expect to make a firm order very soon. This process of assessment and negotiation with the vaccine producing companies is establishing the likely cost of vaccination.

In keeping with the principles set out in the Bluetongue Control Strategy, which was developed in partnership with the farming industry, livestock keepers will be offered the opportunity to purchase vaccine from the bank. EU law limits vaccination to the protection zone. However, we will keep under review with the industry whether to extend that zone to permit vaccination to take place in a wider area once a vaccine is available in early summer.

## Cereals: Prices

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the change in volume of bioethanol production of fuel from cereals; and what assessment he has made of its effect on cereal prices. [173000]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* Overall sales of fuel bioethanol into the UK market increased from 85 million litres in 2005 to 95 million litres in 2006. These sales have been from imported sources. The UK currently has one fuel bioethanol production plant which opened this year. British Sugar's facility in Wissington processes sugar beet and has a capacity of around 70 million litres per annum. A number of companies are planning to build further plants which would use UK-grown crops such as wheat.

It is unlikely that the production of biofuels has had a discernable effect on UK cereals prices to date. Current high prices are due to global factors, including two successive lower world wheat harvests, low global stocks and increased demand for cereals from the range of sectors including food, feed and fuel. Growing global demand for biofuels will put upward pressure on crop prices, but also increase the supply of crops in the future, leading to a stabilisation of the market. Analysis by the European Commission assessing the impact of the 10 per cent. by energy biofuel target for 2020 indicates that prices for agricultural raw materials in the EU would increase by 3 to 6 per cent. for cereals.

## Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many attacks on people there were by dogs designated as dangerous under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since 1997; and how many there were by dogs owned in contravention of the Act in each year; [171884]

(2) how many people were prosecuted under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in London in each year since 1997. [171882]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is provided in the following tables. Table 1 shows the number of people prosecuted for allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control. Table 2 shows the number of defendants proceeded against. However, we do not hold information on whether the dogs involved were held in contravention of the law.

*Table 1: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences related to allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control, England and Wales 1997 to 2006*[1, 2]

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 821 Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person. | Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 S.3 (1) | 121 | 239 | 262 | 260 | 285 | 300 | 302 | 350 | 403 | 458 |
| 822 Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person. | Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 S.3 (3) | 5 | 13 | 19 | 32 | 31 | 30 | 33 | 25 | 25 | 29 |
| 11118 Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused. | Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 S.3 (1) | 88 | 125 | 126 | 130 | 157 | 150 | 171 | 167 | 168 | 160 |
| 11119 Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person. | Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 S.3 (3) | 4 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 14 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 11 |
| Total | | 218 | 385 | 412 | 435 | 487 | 487 | 516 | 547 | 605 | 658 |

*Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in Greater London for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, 1997 to 2006*[1, 2]

| | Number proceeded against |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 80 |
| 1998 | 83 |
| 1999 | 79 |
| 2000 | 92 |
| 2001 | 97 |
| 2002 | 86 |
| 2003 | 91 |
| 2004 | 82 |
| 2005 | 80 |
| 2006 | 102 |

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid by his Department in consultancy fees in each year since 2004-05. [171874]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 78-79W.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in consultancy fees by *(a)* the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and *(b)* the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions between 1997 and 8 June 2001. [172075]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA came into being in June 2001. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 78-79W.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168749]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Manpower

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of posts in his Department were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172252]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA is committed to achieving workforce reductions of 1,400 posts by the end of 2007-08. This is a net target and no posts will be reallocated to the frontline as part of it.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he will take of the likely costs of the proposed *(a)* Marine Management Organisation and *(b)* reforms of the Sea Fisheries Committees when deciding to allocate the moneys allocated to his Department in the next comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [173007]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA's business planning and budgeting process is currently in hand for the period covered by the recent comprehensive spending review (CSR07). Allocations have not been finalised, but the likely costs of implementing the Marine Bill, including the costs of establishing the Marine Management Organisation and reforming Sea Fisheries Committees, are being taken into account.

### Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to undertake research into developing market opportunities for low-value fish; and if he will make a statement. [173018]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Making low-value fish available and convenient to consumers is a key part of Fisheries 2027, a long-term vision for sustainable fisheries. I am discussing with stakeholders a draft delivery plan for Fisheries 2027, which sets out the shared responsibilities of those involved in the fisheries supply chain. This includes DEFRA's role. Fisheries 2027 is available in the Library of the House.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the classification of the *(a)* 10 metre and under fleet and *(b)* 10 metre and over fleet; whether there are any proposals to change this classification; and if he will make a statement. [173025]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have had no discussions with the European Commission on any changes to the use of 10 metres as a division of the fishing fleet in the UK, and I am unaware of any proposals to change this classification.

### Fisheries: Quotas

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to implement a Quota Management Change Programme without Scotland's participation; and if he will make a statement; [172039]

(2) whether he plans to resume discussions with the devolved administrations on the Quota Management Change Programme; and if he will make a statement. [173021]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Following the Scottish Executive's withdrawal from the Quota Management Change Programme, DEFRA and the devolved Administrations are currently considering how to take forward work on quota management reform flowing from the change programme, and any other measures that might be necessary. As soon as this has been decided I will make an announcement.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to alter the proportion of 2008 quota received by the *(a)* producer organisations, *(b)* 10 metre and under fleet and *(c)* non-sector compared to the allocation for 2007; and if he will make a statement; [173019]

(2) what he estimates to be an appropriate amount of quota for the 10 metre and under fleet for each fish stock; and if he will make a statement; [173020]

(3) when he expects to announce proposals to reform the management of the 10 metre and under fleet; and if he will make a statement; [173022]

(4) whether he intends to allow 10 metre and under vessels to continue to lease quota from the producer organisations in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [173023]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The proportions of quota received by each sector of the fishing fleet are based on arrangements laid down in the UK's Quota Management Rules. I have no plans to change these arrangements for 2008.

Requirements for quota for each sector and each vessel vary throughout the year and between years in response to changing environmental and economic conditions. For this reason there is no single "appropriate amount of quota" for the under 10 metre fleet. In response, the Marine and Fisheries Agency adjusts quota holdings for the under 10 metre fleet throughout the year through quota swaps, donations from producer organisations and contributions through economic links.

The facility for the leasing of quota by under 10 metre vessels was introduced as a temporary measure for 2007. I am currently examining options to improve the management of the under 10 metre fleet, including the arrangements for access to quota by these vessels, and expect to make an announcement on this matter soon.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much quota available to skippers in each sector has been unused in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [173024]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Figures for the uptake of United Kingdom quotas of fish are published each year in Table 6.2 of the United Kingdom Sea Fisheries Statistics Tables published by the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA). This provides information on the level of quota and the landings of each fish stock (covering demersal, pelagic and shellfish species) for which the UK receives a quota. Information for the year 2006 is included in the latest edition, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House. Information for previous years is available online from the MFA website.

The MFA also publish information on the uptake of quotas in terms of the quota allocated and uptake by each producer organisation in the United Kingdom. The latest information on uptake in 2007 is available, and similar information related to activity in 2005 and 2006 is available on the MFA website.

Fisheries Administrations in the UK seek to work with the industry to facilitate maximum uptake of UK quota. Uptake of quotas by the UK industry varies from stock to stock in line with operational and business decisions made by the industry, as well as the effect of other constraints on fishing operations such as the various effort control regimes that exist. Uptake also varies from year to year as well as throughout the year.

## Fisheries: Science

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been provided for fisheries-related science in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [173015]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows spending by DEFRA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on Marine Fisheries Science in each year since 1997. The figures show total spending, and also break this down into spend on Research and Development (R and D) and on monitoring and assessment work (non R and D).

Increases to the non R and D funds for 2004-06 reflect the introduction of a £1 million Fisheries Science Partnership initiative in 2004, and several increases to Capital Charges paid to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

£

| | *R and D* | *Non R and D* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 3,091,018 | 4,664,238 | 7,755,256 |
| 1998 | 4,097,522 | 3,884,120 | 7,981,642 |
| 1999 | 3,074,360 | 4,224,513 | 7,298,873 |
| 2000 | 3,566,795 | 4,598,165 | 8,164,960 |
| 2001 | 3,354,031 | 4,621,959 | 7,975,990 |
| 2002 | 3,367,063 | 5,942,000 | 9,309,063 |
| 2003 | 3,243,581 | 5,942,000 | 9,185,581 |
| 2004 | 3,199,128 | 8,487,999 | 11,687,127 |
| 2005 | 3,168,882 | 9,985,000 | 13,153,882 |
| 2006 | 3,380,906 | 10,543,000 | 13,923,906 |

## Fisheries: Standards

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* targets and *(b)* deadlines for achieving them were set out in each Marine and Fisheries Business Plan published by his Department since 1997; which targets were (i) reached and (ii) not reached by the deadlines; and if he will make a statement. [173006]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA's Marine and Fisheries Directorate was established on 1 April 2006. Business plans were published for 2006-07 and 2007-08, and copies are available in the House of Commons Library. They set out the work and milestones of the directorate for this period, and the 2007-08 plan includes a review of the previous year's progress.

I am pleased to say that the Government have made considerable progress on a wide range of marine and fisheries issues. We published the Marine Bill White Paper in March 2007 and plan to publish the draft Bill next year.

We have delivered key UK objectives on a number of important marine and fisheries portfolios at European Council and international meetings, including changes to allow more informed decision making on fish quotas and technical regulations and on the Marine Strategy Directive.

There have been important improvements in fisheries management in response to the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report "Net Benefits". We have also secured amendments to the London and OSPAR conventions to allow carbon storage on the sea bed. This has the potential to be a significant means of ameliorating the effects of carbon emissions.

## Fisheries: Subsidies

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much fisheries-related funding was allocated from the EU to the UK in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* region and (b) fisheries administration; and if he will make a statement. [171682]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The fisheries-related allocations from the EU to the UK were as follows:

*1997-99*

*UK Objective 5a programme (England, Lowland Scotland, Wales)*

(The EU did not provide an allocation by region for this programme)

1997: 14.8 mecus (£10.2 million)

1998: 14.8 mecus (£10.2 million)

1999: 14.8 mecus (£10.2 million)

*UK Objective 1 programmes*

| | *Merseyside* | | *Scotland Highlands and Islands* | | *Northern Ireland* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Mecus* | *£ million* | *Mecus* | *£ million* | *Mecus* | *£ million* |
| 1997 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 1.7 |
| 1998 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 3.1 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 1.7 |
| 1999 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 2.7 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 1.7 |

*Fisheries element of UK PESCA programme*

| | *England* | | *Lowland Scotland* | | *Scotland Highlands and Islands* | | *Wales* | | *Northern Ireland* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Mecus* | *£ million* | *Mecus* | *£ million* | *Mecus* | *£ million* | *Mecus* | *£ million* | *Mecus* | *£ million* |
| 1997 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.1 | 0.04 |
| 1998 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.1 | 0.04 |
| 1999 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.1 | 0.04 |

*Total UK:*

1997: 21.8 mecus (£15.0 million)

1998: 21.6 mecus (£14.9 million)

1999: 21.4 mecus (£14.7 million)

*2000-06*

*UK Outside Objective 1 programme*

| | *England* | | *Lowland Scotland* | | *Wales* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Meuro* | *£ million* | *Meuro* | *£ million* | *Meuro* | *£ million* |
| 2000 | 8.6 | 5.9 | 8.6 | 5.9 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| 2001 | 8.8 | 6.0 | 8.8 | 6.0 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| 2002 | 9.0 | 6.2 | 9.0 | 6.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| 2003 | 9.2 | 6.3 | 9.2 | 6.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| 2004 | 8.5 | 5.8 | 8.5 | 5.8 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| 2005 | 8.6 | 5.9 | 8.6 | 5.9 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| 2006 | 8.9 | 6.1 | 8.9 | 6.1 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

*UK Objective 1 programmes*

| | *Cornwall* | | *Merseyside* | | *Scotland Highlands and Islands* | | *West Wales and the Valleys* | | *Northern Ireland* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Meuro* | *£ million* | *Meuro* | *£ million* | *Meuro* | *£ million* | *Meuro* | *£ million* | *Meuro* | *£ million* |
| 2000 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| 2001 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 8.3 | 5.7 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.3 |
| 2002 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 6.4 | 4.4 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 5.4 | 3.7 |
| 2003 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.6 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 3.8 |
| 2004 | 1<br>9 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 3.7 | 2.<br>5 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 5.5 | 3.8 |
| 2005 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 5.4 | 3.7 |
| 2006 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 5.4 | 3.7 |

*Total UK:*

2000: 24.0 meuros (£16.6 million)

2001: 32.9 meuros (£22.7 million)

2002: 35.1 meuros (£24.2 million)

2003: 33.5 meuros (£23.1 million)

2004: 30.3 meuros (£20.9 million)

2005: 30.2 meuros (£20.8 million)

2006: 29.6 meuros (£20.4 million)

## Fishing Catches

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects further proposals from the Commission Communication: A Policy to Reduce Unwanted By-catch and Eliminate Discards in European Fisheries (COM (2007) 136 final) to be discussed at a Fisheries Council meeting; and if he will make a statement. [173012]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I would expect the issue of discards to be a key topic of discussion during the negotiations surrounding the setting of total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas for 2008 at the December EU Fisheries Council.

The first Council debate was held at the June Agriculture and Fisheries Council and the Commission hopes to finalise a plan for implementation by the end of 2007 and develop and introduce legislative proposals during 2008.

The Commission published its policy paper containing proposals to address the problem of discarding on 28 March 2007. Member states and regional advisory councils among others have since been consulted by the Commission on its proposals in order to develop an implementation plan.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Belgian counterpart, *(b)* his Danish counterpart, *(c)* his French counterpart, *(d)* his Portuguese counterpart, *(e)* his Spanish counterpart and *(f)* the European Commission on the submission of discard data to the Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries; and if he will make a statement. [173013]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have made clear to the Commission and other member states that I am concerned about the absence of adequate data on discards. I expect the Commission to be pressing those who have failed to deliver to provide the data as soon as possible. The Commission have assured me that this is a key priority for them.

Since 2002, all EU countries have been required to collect data on discarding under Council Regulation 1543/2000. Unfortunately, the information has not yet been systematically compiled.

A report published in November this year by the Subgroup on the Assessment of the Fishing Effort Regime of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee (STECF), presents an overview on 2003-2006 catch data reports (landings and discards) provided by EU member states with and without special conditions laid down in Annexes IIA-C of Council Reg. 41/2007. These are shown in the following table.

*According to 41/2007 Annexes IIA-C*

| *Country* | *Landings data 2003-2006* | *Discards data 2003-06* |
|---|---|---|
| Belgium | Landings, age composition (no special condition) | None |
| Denmark | Landings, age composition | Data not in the requested format |
| France | Landings, age composition, not for ICES Div. 8c-9a | None |
| Germany | Landings, age composition | Discards, age composition |
| Ireland | Landings, age composition (no special condition) | None |
| Netherlands | Landings, age composition (no mesh size for beam, no special condition) | Discards, age composition (no mesh size for beam, no special condition) |
| Portugal | Landings, age composition (only 2004-2006, no special condition for regulated gears) | None |
| Spain | None | None |
| UK England incl. Northern Ireland | Landings, age composition | Discards, age composition |
| UK Scotland | Landings, age composition | Discards, age composition |
| Sweden | Landings, age composition, not by quarter | Landings, age composition, not by quarter |

## Foot and Mouth Disease

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs associated with the 2007 outbreak of foot and mouth disease, broken down by subheading. [169446]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As of 26 November the estimated total cost of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak was in the region of £48.3 million and is broken down as follows:

| | *Costs (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Staff costs | 13,112 |
| FMD aid package for farming | 12,500 |
| Compensation costs | 793 |
| Cleansing and disinfecting costs | 1,792 |
| Vaccination and vaccine bank costs | 2,246 |
| Communications costs | 191 |
| Surveillance and diagnostic testing costs | 11,490 |
| Infected Premises and Local Disease Control Centre costs | 6,100 |
| Consultancy | 84 |
| Total | 48,308 |

## Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions on movement remain in place to counter *(a)* foot and mouth and *(b)* bluetongue; and if he will make a statement. [171167]

**Jonathan Shaw:** For foot and mouth disease, there are some remaining movement restrictions in some boroughs and districts in the south east. These restrictions also prevent exports of meat and meat products from the area. A decision was agreed by EU member states on 3 December to allow live animal exports, which will come into force later in December. Details, and a map outlining the boundaries of these zones, can be found on the DEFRA website.

For bluetongue, a protection zone exists in East Anglia and south east England, and a wider surveillance zone is in place covering a large part of England except the north and south west. There are a number of restrictions relating to movements in and across these zones, and details can be found on the DEFRA website. We are keeping these restrictions under review with industry during the low vector period over winter.

### International Whaling Commission

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on recent UK Government representations to the International Whaling Commission. [172563]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The UK plays a prominent role within the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in building and maintaining the coalition of anti-whaling countries. At this year's meeting, due in part to the UK's efforts to increase the number of anti-whaling countries within the IWC, the anti-whaling bloc regained the simple majority within the Commission.

This majority enabled the UK and our allies to pass several key resolutions, in which the IWC: called on Japan to halt it's lethal "scientific" research programme known as JARPA II; recognised the need to promote the non-lethal use of cetaceans (i.e. whale-watching); and reaffirmed the continuing need for the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling in the face of proposals to be considered by the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) aimed at eventually permitting trade in some cetacean products.

### Marine and Fisheries Agency: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he will decide on the grants he will give to the Marine and Fisheries Agency for each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [173009]

(2) what account he will take of the likely costs to the Marine and Fisheries Agency of the proposed EU legislation on electronic recording and reporting of fish when deciding to allocate the moneys allocated to his Department in the next comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement; [173010]

(3) what representations he has received from the Marine and Fisheries Agency on its budget for each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [173011]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As an Executive Agency of DEFRA, the Marine and Fisheries Agency participates in our business planning and budgeting process. Their applications for funding for the period covered by the comprehensive spending review are now being considered by DEFRA as part of that process. That process will also take into account the future spending requirements of the Agency to meet their statutory and policy delivery priorities. This includes those costs currently identified as necessary to cover the requirements of the proposed EU legislation on electronic recording and reporting of fish. However, final decisions on some aspects of the implementation of these requirements in the UK have yet to be taken. The Agency will seek additional funds if shown to be necessary.

### Pirbright Laboratory: Disease Control

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken to prevent further leaks from the laboratory at Pirbright. [164406]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As soon as we became aware that Pirbright was a potential source of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak we put in place a number of additional safeguards at the Pirbright site. We immediately asked the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Professor Spratt to carry out reviews of biosecurity and subsequently accepted all of the recommendations in their reports. Since then, stringent new biosecurity conditions have been applied to work on the Pirbright site, providing several independent layers of safety and ensuring that the process is contained. For example, the drainage system has been relined and tested. These measures will ensure the highest level of biosecurity at Pirbright.

Additional measures have been implemented for the Institute of Animal Health, including tougher controls over access and on movement of people and vehicles, and an agreed protocol to prevent activities that could result in virus entering the drainage system. We have worked closely with the HSE and are satisfied that all necessary measures are in place to manage any risk of further virus release.

On 22 November, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) made a written statement, *Official Report*, columns 143-44WS, after Merial informed DEFRA officials of an incident that led to a possible leak of live virus into the contained drainage system.

A joint DEFRA, HSE and veterinary medicine directorate inspection team visited the site on 21 November. They confirmed that all work with live virus had stopped, and they carried out a detailed inspection.

The inspection team judged that, while it was possible that live FMD virus had entered the contained drainage system, they were assured that live virus had not been released into the environment. The extensive layers of biosecurity that we require under the Special Animal Pathogens Order licence effectively contained the virus in the closed, re-lined drainage system, before deactivation in the chemical treatment facility.

### Pork

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to intervention buying of pork products to take excess supply from the UK market; what consideration he has given to the banning of pork imports which are not produced to British standards; and what steps he is taking to ensure pork products carry labelling indicating from which country the pork has been sourced. [172829]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* Intervention buying of pigmeat is governed by the EU pigmeat regime which includes provision for limited private storage aid under certain market conditions. Applications for private storage aid were recently opened for the period from 29 October to 4 December. Uptake in the UK was very low compared to the rest of the EU.

The vast majority of pigmeat imports into the UK are from EU countries and are, therefore, protected by single market legislation. There are very few areas in which UK law goes beyond the requirements of the EU minimum standards. The principal remaining difference between UK and other member states' pig welfare standards regards the use of sow stalls, where UK-type restrictions will not apply across the EU until 2013. World Trade Organisation rules currently do not allow us to restrict trade on animal welfare grounds.

All consignments of meat imported into the UK from other EU member states and third countries must have been produced in accordance with the harmonised animal and public health rules laid down in European Community legislation.

The Trade Descriptions Act 1968 and the Food Safety Act 1990 govern the use of labelling including that for country of origin. Any labelling that provides information on the origin of meat must not mislead consumers. Where meat has been processed, provided it is a substantial change, it is permissible to describe as its origin the country where that change took place. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has lead responsibility for labelling and has issued guidance which suggests that if the absence of information might mislead consumers, both the origin of the meat and the country where the processing takes place should be declared in order to facilitate informed consumer choice. The FSA also leads on engagement in the EU's Review of Food Labelling and DEFRA is liaising with it to ensure that concerns such as country sourcing are taken fully into account.

We also welcome initiatives such as that of the British pig industry to develop a code of practice to help make consumers better informed about methods and origin of pigmeat production.

### Public Sector: Procurement

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the public sector food procurement initiative on the animal welfare standards related to the production of the meat and eggs purchased by public sector bodies; and if he will make a statement; [173459]

(2) what the public sector food procurement initiative for public sector bodies concluded on the purchase of conventional battery eggs or food and meals using such eggs; and if he will make a statement. [173461]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No such assessment has been made.

The public sector food procurement initiative (PSFPI) does not contain any specific guidance on purchasing eggs. However, objectives which apply to all food purchases include: increasing tendering opportunities for small and local food producers; raising standards of production; and, addressing barriers to supply. We have recently published a new guide, "Putting it into practice", which promotes animal welfare along with other PSFPI objectives.

### Seas and Oceans

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the costs to the public purse of introducing the measures proposed in the Marine Bill White Paper over the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [173008]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In the partial regulatory impact assessment, published with the Marine Bill White Paper, we have set out the estimated costs and benefits of our proposals. We are updating that assessment and will publish it next year alongside the draft Marine Bill.

### Seas and Oceans: Biodiversity

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1097-8W, on seas and oceans: biodiversity, which special areas of conservation he has identified beyond the 12 nautical mile limit; what measures he is taking to protect these areas; and if he will make a statement. [173014]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We are finalising our Natura 2000 network of sites in the marine area, which we hope to substantially complete by 2012. We expect to send an initial tranche of candidate offshore special areas of conservation to the European Commission before September 2008.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee will be consulting on seven initial sites later this month. These include: Braemar Pockmarks, Darwin Mounds, Haig Fras, North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, Scanner Pockmark, Stanton Banks and Wyville Thomson Ridge.

At the time of the consultation the sites are not European offshore marine sites so the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 do not apply as a matter of law or as a matter of policy. However, DEFRA will consider what action might reasonably be taken to protect sites. Consenting authorities are encouraged to take note of proposals in consideration of any licensing or consenting decisions that may affect sites.

If the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), as our scientific nature conservation advisers, advised us that potential offshore sites were being damaged by fishing activities, we would approach the Commission to ask them to consider proposing protective measures. The JNCC have not indicated that there is any such damage occurring in our current potential sites.

Our programme of data collection and survey work will continue to identify further sites required to complete the UK network.

### Slaughterhouses: Religious Practice

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the halal slaughter industry in order to assist the identification of such produce throughout the wholesale process. [171938]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognise that some purchasers may wish to have access to this information. However, they have no plans to bring in legislation in this area. There is, of course, nothing to prevent food businesses from providing this information throughout the supply chain on a voluntary basis.

### Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible provide a customer contact service; and which of these are 0800 or 0845 numbers. [173205]

**Jonathan Shaw:** All of DEFRA's executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies provide public contact points for enquiries. Details are available on their websites.

In addition, the following DEFRA sponsored bodies offer a substantive customer contact service:

| *Delivery body etc.* | *Customer contact service* | *Use of 0800 or 0845 numbers?* |
|---|---|---|
| DEFRA | DEFRA Helpline | Yes |
| Animal Health | National Scrapie Plan, Welfare in Transit, Pet Travel scheme, Helpline | Yes |
| Rural Payments Agency | Rural Payments Agency Customer Service Centre, British Cattle Movement Service | Yes |
| Environment Agency | National Customer Contact Centre provides a single point of contact for the Agency's customers | Yes |
| Natural England | National Enquiry line | Yes |
| British Potato Council | Market Information function | No |

### Thames and Severn Canal

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how long the scheme proposing the restoration of the Thames and Severn canal has been in place. [172705]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Cotswold Canals Trust was established in 1972, with the vision of restoring these canals to navigation. The regenerative benefits of the proposed restoration was recognised by the local community and local authorities by the early 1990s. The Cotswold Canals Partnership—made up of 17 stakeholders—was formed in 2001 and is leading the restoration of the canal.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to publish the MWH report into the Thames and Severn canal. [172706]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Montgomery Watson Hydrological study into the feasibility of water supply to the restored canals is well advanced, and is currently being reviewed by British Waterways in consultation with the Environment Agency. I understand that it will be published once the study is fully complete.

### Whales

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has made to countries who permit whaling. [172413]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The UK Government have consistently voiced their strong opposition to countries engaged in lethal 'scientific' and commercial whaling programmes.

Last year the UK took part in two demarches presented to the Japanese Government regarding their 'scientific' whaling operations: in January 2006 over the JARPA II whaling programme, and a similar protest in December 2006.

In April 2006, the British Charge d'Affaires in Oslo delivered a demarche to the Norwegian Government, on behalf of the UK and 11 other countries, urging it to stop its commercial whaling programme.

In November 2006, the UK led a diplomatic demarche of 25 countries, together with the European Commission, in condemning the Icelandic Government's decision to resume commercial whaling.

### Whales: Research

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals he has made in international institutions to prevent the killing of humpback whales for scientific research. [173385]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: At the annual meetings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the UK regularly co-sponsors resolutions calling on those countries which undertake lethal whaling operations for the ostensible purpose of scientific research to desist from these activities. We also participate in high-level diplomatic protests to the Japanese Government on this issue. In more general discussion on the future of the IWC, we have argued that the international convention for the regulation of whaling should be amended to close the loophole that renders such operations legal. Were such an amendment formally proposed, it would only take effect if all parties to the convention ratified it. This seems an unlikely outcome.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Fire Extinguishers

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies there are; and how many of these have been fitted with fire sprinkler systems. [171229]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 150W, and to the reply given on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 154W.

### Academies: General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were entered for each subject at GCSE and equivalent qualifications in 2007 by each academy school; how many achieved each grade in each academy; and if he will make a statement. [172749]

**Jim Knight:** 2007 GCSE and equivalent results for each school—including those for academies—are not available until their publication in the secondary school achievement and attainment tables in January 2008. However, the Department does not produce reports showing individual subject level results for each individual school—including academies. Such a report could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

### Academies: Pupil Exclusions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many permanent exclusions there were from each academy in each year since 2002-03; how many there were in those schools in the year before academy status was granted; and if he will make a statement. [172084]

**Kevin Brennan:** The number of permanent exclusions from each academy in each year since 2002-03 to 2005-06 is provided in the table. Exclusions data relating to the 2006-07 school year are expected to be available in June 2008.

Information on the number of exclusions from the predecessor schools of each academy could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Exclusions in academies are high relative to national averages. However, academies are placing great emphasis on getting the basics right and improving behaviour in particular. Academies often inherit a large number of disengaged pupils and need to establish good behaviour in order to raise attainment. As the new ethos and behaviour policy are enforced in an academy's early days, the number of exclusions may rise, but it typically drops down as behaviour improves. This phenomenon is not unique to academies—the same effect is often observed when a new head teacher transforms a struggling maintained school.

*Academies: number of permanent exclusions[1, 2] 2002-03 to 2005-06, schools in England*

| | | Number of permanent exclusions | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *LA name* | *Establishment name* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
| Barnet | London Academy | n/a | [3]— | 0 | [illegible] |
| Barnsley | The Barnsley Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Bexley | The Business Academy Bexley | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| Bradford | Dixons City Academy | n/a | n/a | [3]— | n/a |
| Brent | Capital City Academy | n/a | 4 | 11 | 13 |
| Bristol City of | The City Academy Bristol | n/a | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Derby | Landau Forte College | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Doncaster | Trinity Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | 6 |
| Ealing | West London Academy | [3]— | 8 | 22 | 17 |
| Greenwich | St. Paul's Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Hackney | Mossbourne Community Academy | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 |
| Hackney | The Petchey Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | Burlington Danes Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | [3]— |
| Haringey | Greig City Academy | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hillingdon | Stockley Academy | n/a | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Hillingdon | The Harefield Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Kent | The Marlowe Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3 |
| Lambeth | Lambeth Academy | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 |
| Leeds | David Young Community Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Lewisham | Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Lewisham | Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy | n/a | n/a | [3]— | [3]— |
| Liverpool | North Liverpool Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Liverpool | The Academy of St Francis of Assisi | n/a | n/a | n/a | 5 |
| Manchester | Manchester Academy | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Merton | Harris Academy Merton | n/a | n/a | n/a | 5 |
| Merton | St. Marks Church of England Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Middlesbrough | Macmillan Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Middlesbrough | The King's Academy | n/a | 27 | 7 | 11 |
| Middlesbrough | Unity City Academy | 0 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| Northamptonshire | Northampton Academy | n/a | 9 | 9 | 23 |
| Nottingham | Djanogly City Academy Nottingham | 4 | 3 | 11 | 10 |

*Academies: number of permanent exclusions[1, 2] 2002-03 to 2005-06, schools in England*

| | | Number of permanent exclusions | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *LA name* | *Establishment name* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
| Reading | John Madejski Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Salford | Salford City Academy | n/a | n/a | 6 | 4 |
| Sandwell | Sandwell Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sheffield | Sheffield Park Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sheffield | Sheffield Springs Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | [3]— |
| Solihull | Grace Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Southwark | City of London Academy (Southwark) | n/a | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Southwark | Harris Academy Bermondsey | n/a | n/a | n/a | 5 |
| Southwark | Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Southwark | The Academy at Peckham | n/a | 5 | 10 | 13 |
| Thurrock | The Gateway Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Walsall | Walsall Academy | n/a | [3]— | 0 | 0 |
| Waltham Forest | Walthamstow Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Westminster | Paddington Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Westminster | Westminster Academy | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

n/a = not applicable

[1] Figures are as reported by schools and are unconfirmed.

[2] It is possible that in some cases exclusions from a predecessor school have been transferred across to the academy. This may have happened in only a small number of cases and only in the first year of the academy's operation.

[3] One or two exclusions

*Source:*

School Census

### Assessments: Standards

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of the key stage 3 English tests are marked overseas; and if he will make a statement. [172505]

**Jim Knight:** The eligibility criteria for markers of key stage 3 English tests include a requirement that they have an address in the United Kingdom for delivery of scripts.

### Children: Databases

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the timescale is for publication of the report his Department commissioned from Deloitte on ContactPoint's security procedures. [171698]

**Kevin Brennan:** Given the obvious importance of ensuring that ContactPoint has extremely robust security measures in place, on 20 November, the Secretary of State asked for an independent assessment of ContactPoint's security procedures—to be conducted by Deloitte.

The findings will be compared with the international security standard ISO27001, which defines the requirements for an information security management system, and the Government's own Manual of Protective Security (MPS) standards. The expectation is that the independent assessment will report back to the Secretary of State at the end of January 2008. We plan, thereafter, to make public the key findings of Deloitte's report.

### Children: Equal Opportunities

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to widen equality of opportunity for children since 1997. [169327]

**Jim Knight:** Since 1997, with the support of teachers and practitioners, we have achieved an unprecedented increase in school standards. And, in the context of raising school standards, we have also met the challenge of broadening equality of attainment for many under-achieving groups. Our continued focus is to raise school standards and deliver a world class education system where every child, irrespective of gender, race, disability or background, receives the best possible education, personalised to their needs, aptitudes and aspirations.

Doubling funding per pupil in real terms since 1997, record number of adults in the classroom, our national strategies, our focus on literacy and numeracy, personalised learning, progression, curriculum changes, behaviour, academies and a better choice of schools—all these actions and achievements will continue to support this effort. Additionally, targeted interventions to address disadvantage and promote equality, such as City Challenge, Aiming High, approaches to benefit boys' attainment where they have been under-achieving, attracting more girls into physics, addressing prejudice driven bullying, and increased school funding for children from poor families, with special needs and/or with English as an additional language, will continue to support this effort.

In addition to raising school standards we have made a number of far-reaching policy commitments to widen equality of opportunity for children. The cross-Government Every Child Matters programme will secure an expansion of early education, the development of Children's Centres and extended schools and the development of integrated multi-agency working to support children and young people with additional needs.

Our 14 to 19 reforms will ensure equality of opportunity for all young people. We are creating an entitlement for every young person to be able to study the new Diplomas, and this will require schools, colleges and other providers to work together to deliver these new courses to all young people in their area. Diplomas will be offered at Levels 1, 2 and 3, and will include Functional Skills, so that young people get a real grounding in basic English, maths and ICT as well as more subject-specific knowledge. The entitlement to Diplomas is in addition to the existing National Curriculum offer, and will give young people much greater choice about what and where they study.

We are working hard to tackle problems of disengagement and low attainment. The 14 to 19 reforms not only offer a broader curriculum, but also one with clearer pathways from Entry Level through to Level 2 qualifications and beyond. We want as many young people as possible to attain Level 2 qualifications by the time they reach the age of 19, as we believe it is Level 2 qualifications which will give them real employability.

We want as many young people as possible to stay in education and training until the age of 18 so that they can maximise their potential and gain the key skills which will enable them to be successful in employment and in life. We will raise the compulsory education and training leaving age to 18 to ensure that all young people have as much of an opportunity as possible to set themselves up with key life skills.

We will set out our commitments in more detail in the forthcoming Children's Plan.

### Children: Exercise

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of five to 16-year-olds taking part in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum in each week; and if he will make a statement; [172156]

(2) how much has been spent in each local authority on delivering the PE, school sport and club links strategy since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [172157]

**Kevin Brennan:** The annual PE and school sport survey collects data relating to participation in PE and school sport. The 2006/07 survey found that 86 per cent. of pupils take part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week.

Investment in the PE, school sport and club links strategy has been £978.5 million in the five years to 2008. Funding is routed through School Sport Partnerships and partner organisations rather than local authorities.

### Children: Poverty

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to reduce the number of children living in poverty since 1997. [169326]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Government are working to halve child poverty by 2010-11 and eradicate it by 2020. Since 1997, many steps have been taken to improve financial support for families, provide employment opportunities for all, provide support when people cannot work, tackle material deprivation through promoting financial inclusion and better housing and improve children's life chances and break cycles of deprivation (as set out in "Child Poverty Review" (July 2004) HM Treasury). A total of 600,000 UK children have been lifted out of relative poverty since 1998/99, (both before and after housing costs). The number of children in absolute poverty (before housing costs) has been more than halved since 1998/99.

The Government have recently published a Delivery Agreement (DA), underpinning the Child Poverty Public Service Agreement (PSA) which, alongside other delivery agreements aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people, also impacts on child poverty. These comprise agreements aimed at narrowing the gap in educational achievement, raising educational attainment, improving children's health and well being, increasing the number of young people on the path to success, and improving the safeguarding of children. The Child Poverty Unit has also been set up to drive forward the Government's commitment to eradicate child poverty by bringing together policy and analytical civil servants from the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

### Children's Centres: Low Incomes

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to low income key workers who are parents of twins, triplets or greater multiple births and wish to arrange childcare via their local Sure Start Children's Centre. [173270]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department does not provide guidance directly to parents who wish to arrange childcare via their local Sure Start Children's Centre. Our guidance for local authorities and children's centre managers (Sure Start Children's Centres Planning and Performance Management Guidance November 2006) makes it clear that all centres should provide advice and information for parents about local childcare options. Those centres serving the most disadvantaged communities will include early years provision (integrated early learning and full daycare places) within the services they offer at the centre.

Parents can find out about local childcare options by contacting their local Children's Information Service on freephone 0800 2 346346 or on line at

www.direct.gov.uk/childcare.

### Class Sizes

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many key stage 2 pupils were in classes of 30 pupils or more in each year since 1996. [172092]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is given in the table.

*Maintained primary schools[1]: key stage 2 classes as taught[2] Position in January each year 1996 to 2007: England*

| | Number of pupils in classes of 31 or more pupils | Percentage of pupils in classes of 31 or more pupils |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 724,250 | 36.0 |
| 1997 | 779,530 | 37.9 |
| 1998 | 832,670 | 39.9 |

*Maintained primary schools[1]: key stage 2 classes as taught[2] Position in January each year 1996 to 2007: England*

| | Number of pupils in classes of 31 or more pupils | Percentage of pupils in classes of 31 or more pupils |
|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 835,260 | 39.4 |
| 2000 | 814,310 | 38.2 |
| 2001 | 747,090 | 34.6 |
| 2002 | 635,820 | 30.1 |
| 2003 | 550,620 | 27.4 |
| 2004 | 509,960 | 25.5 |
| 2005 | 498,550 | 24.9 |
| 2006 | 477,480 | 24.3 |
| 2007 | 448,500 | 23.0 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Classes as taught by one teacher during a single selected period in each school on the day of the Census in January each year.

*Note:*

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

*Source:*

School Census

## Class Sizes: Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the ratio of pupils to teachers was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Cleethorpes constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [172517]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the pupil:teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Cleethorpes constituency and England in January 2007.

*Pupil:teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Cleethorpes constituency and England, January 2007*

| | Cleethorpes constituency | England |
|---|---|---|
| Primary | 22.2 | 21.8 |
| Secondary | 17.1 | 16.5 |

*Source:*

School Census.

## Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds; [171425]

(2) how many documents sent either to or from the Department have been reported as missing in the past year. [171039]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff work in his Department, broken down by area of responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [172550]

**Kevin Brennan:** 2,923 staff work in the Department. The following table provides a breakdown of this figure by area of work, as covered by each of the directorates:

| *DCSF directorate* | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| Children and families directorate | 526 |
| Communications directorate | 287 |
| Corporate services directorate | 899 |
| Schools directorate | 777 |
| Young people directorate | 309 |
| Private office | 53 |
| Legal advisers office | 7 |
| Internal audit | 38 |
| Non-directorate | 27 |
| DCSF Total staff (headcount) | 2923 |

## Education: ICT

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to widen the availability of technology in support of learning. [165421]

**Jim Knight:** The Government set their strategy for technology in education in their Harnessing Technology document published in 2005. The priorities for the strategy are underpinned by a number of system-wide and sector-specific actions applying to the children's services, schools, 14 to 19, HE and lifelong learning sectors. In addition, there have been targeted programmes to put ICT in the homes of the most disadvantaged pupils, and a taskforce, set up earlier this year to look at how we might ensure sustainable access for all school age learners, is due to report next year.

## Education: Local Authorities

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will rank local authorities by *(a)* percentage change in real spending on education and *(b)* percentage improvement in five A*-C GCSE results since 1997-98. [172105]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information for *(a)* has been provided in the following table. The available information for *(b)* about the percentage improvement in five A*-C GCSE and equivalent in each local authority for each year since 1977-98 is published in the Secondary School Achievement and Attainment tables in the Library of the House.

| *Local authority* | *1997-98* | *2005-06* | *Percentage increase between 1997-98 to 2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Middlesbrough | 3,136 | 4,837 | 54 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 2,924 | 4,462 | 53 |
| Hartlepool | 2,965 | 4,467 | 51 |
| Salford | 3,012 | 4,534 | 51 |
| Rochdale | 3,023 | 4,539 | 50 |
| Gateshead | 2,931 | 4,396 | 50 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 3,113 | 4,655 | 50 |

| *Local authority* | *1997-98* | *2005-06* | *Percentage increase between 1997-98 to 2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oldham | 2,989 | 4,467 | 49 |
| Sandwell | 3,033 | 4,502 | 48 |
| South Tyneside | 3,027 | 4,492 | 48 |
| Halton | 3,109 | 4,609 | 48 |
| Dudley | 2,716 | 4,021 | 48 |
| Birmingham | 3,242 | 4,791 | 48 |
| Nottingham | 3,322 | 4,906 | 48 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 2,968 | 4,378 | 48 |
| Cumbria | 2,840 | 4,187 | 47 |
| Ealing | 3,576 | 5,270 | 47 |
| Wolverhampton | 3,100 | 4,563 | 47 |
| Bradford | 3,113 | 4,579 | 47 |
| West Berkshire | 2,945 | 4,327 | 47 |
| Bristol, City of | 3,022 | 4,439 | 47 |
| Bolton | 2,908 | 4,266 | 47 |
| Sunderland | 2,979 | 4,370 | 47 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 2,926 | 4,290 | 47 |
| Rutland | 2,792 | 4,093 | 47 |
| Reading | 3,177 | 4,654 | 46 |
| Walsall | 2,942 | 4,309 | 46 |
| Durham | 2,928 | 4,279 | 46 |
| St. Helens | 2,942 | 4,300 | 46 |
| Tower Hamlets | 4,666 | 6,818 | 46 |
| Manchester | 3,446 | 5,030 | 46 |
| Bury | 2,783 | 4,059 | 46 |
| Islington | 4,456 | 6,488 | 46 |
| Tameside | 2,859 | 4,163 | 46 |
| North Tyneside | 2,885 | 4,191 | 45 |
| Darlington | 2,885 | 4,188 | 45 |
| Doncaster | 3,005 | 4,357 | 45 |
| Wakefield | 2,856 | 4,141 | 45 |
| Calderdale | 2,933 | 4,248 | 45 |
| Kirklees | 2,969 | 4,290 | 45 |
| Wokingham | 2,874 | 4,150 | 44 |
| Leeds | 2,949 | 4,254 | 44 |
| Barnsley | 2,939 | 4,240 | 44 |
| Sefton | 2,943 | 4,244 | 44 |
| Northumberland | 2,917 | 4,206 | 44 |
| Leicester | 3,224 | 4,649 | 44 |
| Hounslow | 3,556 | 5,118 | 44 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 3,125 | 4,493 | 44 |
| Greenwich | 4,117 | 5,918 | 44 |
| Wirral | 3,025 | 4,347 | 44 |
| Liverpool | 3,354 | 4,811 | 43 |
| Wigan | 2,834 | 4,064 | 43 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,406 | 4,883 | 43 |
| Rotherham | 2,976 | 4,265 | 43 |
| Knowsley | 3,362 | 4,808 | 43 |
| North Lincolnshire | 2,925 | 4,183 | 43 |
| Peterborough | 3,124 | 4,466 | 43 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 2,981 | 4,257 | 43 |
| Coventry | 3,092 | 4,416 | 43 |
| Blackpool | 3,002 | 4,265 | 42 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4,554 | 6,448 | 42 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,185 | 4,503 | 41 |
| Warwickshire | 2,828 | 3,995 | 41 |
| Harrow | 3,326 | 4,690 | 41 |
| Southwark | 4,444 | 6,264 | 41 |
| Barnet | 3,408 | 4,802 | 41 |
| Merton | 3,383 | 4,766 | 41 |
| Derby | 3,025 | 4,262 | 41 |
| Sheffield | 3,044 | 4,288 | 41 |
| Solihull | 2,774 | 3,905 | 41 |
| Stockport | 2,759 | 3,883 | 41 |
| Trafford | 2,870 | 4,033 | 41 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2,874 | 4,034 | 40 |
| Derbyshire | 2,829 | 3,965 | 40 |
| Lincolnshire | 2,959 | 4,142 | 40 |
| Lancashire | 2,942 | 4,117 | 40 |
| Northamptonshire | 2,886 | 4,039 | 40 |
| South Gloucestershire | 2,760 | 3,861 | 40 |
| North Yorkshire | 2,905 | 4,063 | 40 |
| Slough | 3,609 | 5,047 | 40 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 2,839 | 3,964 | 40 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 2,839 | 3,954 | 39 |
| Hillingdon | 3,366 | 4,692 | 39 |
| Hackney | 4,825 | 6,725 | 39 |
| Brent | 3,951 | 5,499 | 39 |
| Haringey | 4,056 | 5,645 | 39 |
| Luton | 3,338 | 4,636 | 39 |
| Staffordshire | 2,794 | 3,879 | 39 |
| North Somerset | 2,881 | 3,999 | 39 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 3,303 | 4,583 | 39 |
| Lewisham | 4,399 | 6,091 | 38 |
| Cheshire | 2,853 | 3,949 | 38 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 3,147 | 4,341 | 38 |
| York | 2,842 | 3,919 | 38 |
| Shropshire | 2,957 | 4,075 | 38 |
| Cornwall | 2,972 | 4,091 | 38 |
| Bedfordshire | 3,035 | 4,174 | 38 |
| Herefordshire | 3,044 | 4,185 | 38 |
| Wandsworth | 4,204 | 5,776 | 37 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 3,024 | 4,155 | 37 |
| Enfield | 3,519 | 4,833 | 37 |
| Southampton | 3,232 | 4,432 | 37 |
| Somerset | 2,910 | 3,982 | 37 |
| Newham | 4,050 | 5,534 | 37 |
| Wiltshire | 2,940 | 4,017 | 37 |
| Gloucestershire | 2,915 | 3,980 | 37 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4,584 | 6,255 | 36 |
| Bromley | 3,214 | 4,385 | 36 |
| Warrington | 2,818 | 3,843 | 36 |
| Norfolk | 3,033 | 4,130 | 36 |
| Camden | 4,659 | 6,344 | 36 |
| East Sussex | 3,120 | 4,244 | 36 |
| Portsmouth | 3,161 | 4,299 | 36 |
| Buckinghamshire | 3,124 | 4,238 | 36 |

| *Local authority* | *1997-98* | *2005-06* | *Percentage increase between 1997-98 to 2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kent | 3,115 | 4,223 | 36 |
| Bracknell Forest | 3,145 | 4,256 | 35 |
| Westminster | 4,505 | 6,097 | 35 |
| Havering | 3,167 | 4,279 | 35 |
| Waltham Forest | 3,832 | 5,177 | 35 |
| Swindon | 2,957 | 3,994 | 35 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,927 | 3,952 | 35 |
| Bexley | 3,193 | 4,308 | 35 |
| Milton Keynes | 3,254 | 4,391 | 35 |
| Hampshire | 2,932 | 3,946 | 35 |
| Croydon | 3,465 | 4,658 | 34 |
| Isle of Wight | 3,234 | 4,343 | 34 |
| Medway | 3,075 | 4,128 | 34 |
| Thurrock | 3,284 | 4,400 | 34 |
| Oxfordshire | 3,112 | 4,168 | 34 |
| Essex | 3,133 | 4,190 | 34 |
| Dorset | 2,967 | 3,968 | 34 |
| Suffolk | 2,972 | 3,972 | 34 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3,188 | 4,260 | 34 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 3,235 | 4,319 | 34 |
| Brighton and Hove | 3,273 | 4,370 | 34 |
| Surrey | 3,110 | 4,146 | 33 |
| Plymouth | 3,105 | 4,136 | 33 |
| Leicestershire | 2,860 | 3,799 | 33 |
| Lambeth | 4,886 | 6,489 | 33 |
| Sutton | 3,358 | 4,458 | 33 |
| City of London | 5,320 | 7,048 | 32 |
| Devon | 3,049 | 4,037 | 32 |
| Worcestershire | 2,957 | 3,910 | 32 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,136 | 4,141 | 32 |
| Poole | 2,974 | 3,906 | 31 |
| West Sussex | 3,109 | 4,057 | 30 |
| Redbridge | 3,496 | 4,545 | 30 |
| Torbay | 3,147 | 4,074 | 29 |
| Bournemouth | 3,147 | 3,991 | 27 |

*Notes:*

Price Base: Real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26.09.07

2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.

3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DCSF departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3 to 19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DCSF grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-07 to 2008-09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).

4. The pupil numbers used to convert £m figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three year old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4 year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.

5. Figures are rounded to the nearest £.

6. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

7. Figures are in real terms at 2006-07 prices.

## Education: Research

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent in educational research in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [172746]

**Jim Knight:** I have interpreted 'educational research' to mean social research commissioned by the Department in all its guises since 1997. Until September 2004 social research funded from budgets other than the Department's central research budget was not monitored centrally; to gather that information now would incur disproportionate costs given the many changes to the structure of the Department over the years. The amounts recorded centrally as spent by the Department in each year since 1997 are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 4,573,628 |
| 1998 | 5,485,589 |
| 1999 | 8,751,496 |
| 2000 | 12,692,912 |
| 2001 | 12,014,947 |
| 2002 | 13,770,227 |
| 2003 | 16,523,705 |
| 2004 | 23,322,938 |
| 2005 | 20,280,123 |
| 2006 | 24,466,756 |
| 2007 | 26,770,579 |

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what educational research was commissioned by his Department *(a)* internally and *(b)* externally in each month from November 2006 to December 2007. [172769]

**Jim Knight:** Since November 2007 the Department has commissioned external suppliers to undertake 75 research projects. The monthly breakdown of these follows. The Department does not hold information centrally about the research that is commissioned internally; to collect this now would incur disproportionate costs. The Department's analytical strategy, which is currently being updated to reflect the recent machinery of government changes, contains details of our high-level analytical priorities that are being addressed by both internally and externally commissioned work.

*DCSF Externally Commissioned Research between November 2006 to December 2007*

*November 2006:*

Case management and outcomes for neglected children: A five-year follow-up study of neglected children who have been looked after and reunified

Evaluation of 'Taking the Chair' (national development programme for chairs of governing bodies and head teachers)

Evaluation of the early learning partnerships

International civic and citizenship education study

Noticing and helping the neglected child: a review of the literature

The views of young people and their experience of education

2006-07 school sport survey

What role for the 3Rs? progress and attainment during primary school

*December 2006*

Evaluation overlap co-ordination: targeted youth support pathfinders, budget holding lead professional and parenting early intervention

Further analysis for the development of the 10-year youth strategy—Phase 1

Evaluation of the primary social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) work

*January 2007*

Research on three- and four-year-old pathfinders

Understanding the contribution of Sure Start local programmes to the task of safeguarding children's welfare

Review of the national adoption register for England and Wales and the independent review mechanism in England

Connexions direct website evaluation 2007

OECD thematic review of school to work transition

Evaluation of the first phase of health-led parent support demonstration sites

Behavioural impact of changes in the Teachers Pension Scheme

Office of Manpower Economics teachers' workload diary survey

Determine the optimum supply of children's residential care

Review of capacity in the parenting support market

*February 2007*

Evaluation of disagreement resolution services

The evaluation of the high performing specialist schools programme and specialist special schools

*March 2007*

Commissioning and dissemination costs for the safeguarding children initiative

International civic and citizenship education study (international fees)

Phase 2 further analysis for the development of the 10-year-old youth strategy

An evaluation of education related parenting contracts

Promotion of and training for the children's services statistical neighbour benchmarking tool

*April 2007*

A review of existing evidence around the benefits of raising the participation age to 18

Evaluation of local authority commissioning Pathfinders

Evaluation support to the re-ach project

Exploring issues surrounding post-16 participation in education and training

Formalised peer mentoring pilot (Phase 2)

Hosting the June 2007 meeting of the OECD's technical group for indicators of education systems

Local safeguarding children's boards programme

Programme for international student assessment: national project management for PISA 2009

A review of how fathers are recognised and supported through DCSF policy

Evaluating the impact of the UK resilience programme

Local authority music services provision for key stages 1 and 2

*May 2007*

Evaluation of the enhanced key skills support programme

Independent learning: a review of the evidence

Literature review on complex expression and punctuation

National centre for excellence in the teaching of mathematics (NCETM)

Parents' involvement in children's education 2007

Improving the outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils

A review of existing evidence around the benefits of raising the participation age to 18—economic assessment of the benefits

Review of research centres

*June 2007*

An evaluation of the impact of secondary social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) programme

Evaluating the impact of the UK resilience programme—base line data collection

International perspectives on parenting support

Programme for international student assessment: national project management for PISA 2009

Raising the participation age in education and training to 18: review of existing evidence of the benefits and challenges

Towards the new children in need census

Disabled children: numbers, characteristics and local service provision

*July 2007*

Evaluation of choice advisers

Evaluation of the progression pilot

Literature review on inference and deduction skills for reading

Research into work force remodelling strategies and their impact on school standards

Research to explore how transport barriers to 14 to19 participation can be overcome

The opinions of younger people about the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Evaluation of the London student pledge

*August 2007*

Definitions of LA services and guidance for children in need

Reviewing diploma development: an evaluation of the design of the diploma qualifications

*September 2007*

After school science and engineering clubs

An investigation of the role of the voluntary and community sector in supporting parents and families

Health-led parenting project review of health-led interventions in pregnancy and early years

Investigation of the role of schools with foundations

Research into the allocation of special educational needs allowances in England and Wales

Review of section 58 of Children Act 2004—parental opinion survey

Evaluation of sustainable modes of travel strategies

*October 2007*

In-depth understanding of parents and children and carers and young people

Survey of parents and carers and children and young people

The training and development requirements of senior local leaders and managers of children's services

*November 2007*

Byron review on the impact of new technologies on children: research literature review

Development in the first three sweeps of the millennium cohort study

## English Language: Assessments

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any maintained schools have declined to have their pupils take the key stage 3 English tests; and if he will make a statement. [172504]

**Jim Knight:** No schools declined to enter pupils for the key stage 3 English tests in May 2007.

### Financial Services: Education

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the curricular time needed for the teaching of financial capability at key stages 3 and 4. [173183]

**Beverley Hughes:** No formal assessment has been undertaken. It is for schools themselves to decide how to organise their timetables, including how much time to spend teaching each subject, working within National Curriculum requirements. To help schools plan for delivery of the new secondary curriculum, the National College of School Leadership and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust are running joint regional events for secondary school leaders and curriculum planners on whole curriculum design, to help them think through the process of designing and timetabling a curriculum in their own schools.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to monitor and audit the implementation of financial capability education at key stages 3 and 4. [173184]

**Beverley Hughes:** From September 2008, a new dedicated 'Economic wellbeing and financial capability strand will be introduced at key stage 3 and 4, as part of a revised curriculum for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. In September, my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced £11.5 million new funding over three years to support the teaching of financial education in schools. We are in the process of appointing a contractor to develop and implement a programme of support for schools in this area. The impact of this programme will be measured by independent evaluation, assessing outcomes through interaction with teachers, pupils and other key stakeholders. We will also use Ofsted evidence and research conducted by the Financial Services Authority to judge the effectiveness of our approach.

### Free School Meals

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by eligibility criteria. [172405]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: 1,088,610 children were eligible for and 859,000 were in receipt of free school meals in January 2007, the latest date for which data are available. Information broken down by eligibility criteria is not collected centrally.

The figures quoted are from the School Census of January 2007 and are rounded to the nearest 10. They cover LA maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools (including middle schools) and dually registered and boarding pupils.

### Free School Meals: Child Tax Credit

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of recipients of child tax credit were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claiming free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available. [172404]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The requested information is not available.

### Head Teachers: Pay

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what freedom *(a)* academies and *(b)* other maintained schools have to set head teacher pay; what local authority approval over pay levels is required; and if he will make a statement. [172086]

**Jim Knight:** Academies are independent schools. One of their key features is the freedom to be innovative in the way they reward and retain staff, including their principals. However, we know that many academies base their pay and conditions on the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), which governs the pay of teachers and heads at maintained schools.

Under the STPCD, heads at maintained schools must be paid on a seven-point range on the leadership group spine, but there are a number of flexibilities as to the basis for determining the range. Heads may also receive recruitment and retention incentives and benefits. Pay decisions are the responsibility of the governing body in all maintained schools with delegated budgets, and no local authority approval of decisions is required.

### History: Ethnic Groups

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to encourage schools to teach Black history. [166960]

**Jim Knight:** This Department is committed to supporting equality and diversity through the National Curriculum. The revised secondary curriculum for history, to be taught from September 2008, now includes compulsory study of the "British Empire and its impact on different people in Britain and overseas, pre-colonial civilisations, the nature and effects of the slave trade, and resistance and decolonisation". To mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade a new resource pack for teachers was developed by the Understanding Slavery Initiative as a key element of a national competition for schools, funded by the Government. In addition, the new Citizenship curriculum, aligned with the history curriculum, covers "Living together in Modern Britain", including themes on immigration, the Commonwealth, and links to the study of the British Empire in history. In line with the recommendations of Sir Keith Ajegbo's review of diversity, the new citizenship curriculum will ensure young people will develop a historical understanding of issues that have shaped contemporary life in the UK and the values we share.

### Literacy: Standards

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of levels of literacy amongst school children in *(a)* England, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years; [171765]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to improve standards of literacy among school children; and if he will make a statement. [171766]

**Jim Knight:** There have been significant improvements in the standards of literacy in primary schools. This year 80 per cent. of pupils achieved the target level 4 and above in English, an increase of 17 percentage points compared to 1997.

We have a strong platform for securing further improvements. From this autumn every primary school is using the renewed primary framework which puts phonics at the heart of the teaching of reading. We are also introducing nationally the Every Child A Reader (ECAR) programme. By 2011 this programme will provide 30,000 six-year-olds who have difficulty reading with intensive one-to-one tuition each year.

We are also developing a new programme of intensive support for writing in primary schools—Every Child a Writer—to ensure that every teacher uses the best teaching methods, including one-to-one coaching, in areas of writing which primary children find hardest to master.

The time series for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland are shown in the following table below, but data are not yet available for 2007. The figures for Teeside are not published and therefore cannot be provided except at disproportionate costs. For England, comprehensive figures for all key stages with time series are published in the Statistical First Releases available in the House of Commons Library.

*Key stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 results by Parliamentary constituency of school 1997-2006 Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *KS1 level 2+* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reading | 80.6 | 80.6 | 82.1 | 84.6 | 84.6 | 86.4 | 87.4 | 86.3 | 85.4 | 86.9 |
| Writing | 82.1 | 80.1 | 83.5 | 87.5 | 87.1 | 88.6 | 87.0 | 82.3 | 83.9 | 85.1 |
| Mathematics | 87.5 | 86.1 | 87.0 | 91.5 | 91.5 | 90.0 | 94.6 | 91.1 | 91.3 | 92.3 |
| *KS2 level 4+* | | | | | | | | | | |
| English | 63.7 | 67.1 | 71.1 | 75.9 | 78.5 | 72.2 | 75.1 | 78.4 | 78.9 | 79.3 |
| Mathematics | 65.7 | 63.2 | 70.9 | 73.8 | 76.1 | 73.3 | 75.3 | 76.4 | 78.3 | 76.6 |
| *KS3 level 5+* | | | | | | | | | | |
| English | 50.4 | 63.4 | 53.4 | 62.6 | 59.4 | 66.0 | 65.8 | 71.5 | 67.2 | 70.3 |
| Mathematics | 54.0 | 55.3 | 56.0 | 59.2 | 62.0 | 63.0 | 67.2 | 71.1 | 70.0 | 78.0 |
| Science | 54.8 | 52.7 | 46.4 | 53.4 | 61.0 | 62.8 | 63.9 | 64.4 | 65.0 | 70.8 |
| *KS4* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 A* to C | 36.6 | 36.6 | 41.4 | 43.1 | 42.2 | 43.3 | 42.1 | 43.6 | 48.5 | 47.4 |
| 5 A* to C including English and Mathematics | 26.9 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 36.6 | 37.2 |

[1] Figures for 5+A*-C including English and maths not available from 1998 to 2004

### Primary Education: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions Stroud district council has had with *(a)* Gloucestershire city council and *(b)* his Department on a proposal to open a new primary school at Hunts Grove. [171017]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has not had any discussions with Stroud district council about proposals to establish a new primary school at Hunts Grove. It would be for Gloucestershire county council to confirm whether they have had such discussions with the district council.

The normal route by which a new school can be established is for a local authority (LA) to run a competition, which enables a range of providers to put forward proposals for the new school The process involves six statutory stages: Consultation; Published Notice Inviting Bids; Published Notice Summarising Bids; Representations; Decision; and Implementation. Our guidance on establishing new schools requires the LA to inform the Department when it begins the consultation stage. We have not been informed that Gloucestershire LA is consulting on plans for a new school in Hunts Grove.

### Primary Education: Newcastle

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of parents did not receive their first choice of primary school for their children in the Newcastle local education authority area in the last period for which figures are available. [172758]

**Jim Knight:** Data on the percentage of parents who do not receive their first choice of primary school are not collected centrally.

### Publications

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when his Department commissioned the report on the Integrated Children's System: An Evaluation of the Practice, Process and Consequences of the ICS in CSSRs; [171697]

(2) when he plans to publish the report commissioned by his Department on the Integrated Children's System: An Evaluation of the Practice, Process and Consequences of the ICS in CSSRs; and when his Department received the report. [171705]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]*: The study was commissioned in June 2004. The first draft of the report was received in September 2006. A summary of the key findings from the research is being prepared for publication on the Department's website in early 2008.

### Pupil Exclusions: Males

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fixed period exclusions there were of boys in each local authority aged *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14 and *(d)* 15 years in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08; what proportion of the total school population this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [172099]

**Kevin Brennan:** The latest available data on exclusions relate to the 2005-06 school year.

A table showing the requested information for 2005-06 has been placed in the Library.

Information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

### Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the allocation of funding per pupil in Romford will be in the academic year 2008-09. [171210]

**Jim Knight:** The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Romford constituency is not available.

The guaranteed per pupil unit of funding for 2008-09 for Havering local authority in cash terms is £4,137. This covers all funded pupils aged 3 to 15.

*Note:*

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grants (DSG).

2. This figure does not represent the totality of 'education' funding allocated in that year. There are other grants that support the schools budget whose allocations have not yet been finalised—these are not included in the provided DSG figure.

### Schools: Disabled

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to make schools accessible to pupils with disabilities since 1997. [166959]

**Jim Knight:** In 2001, the Government extended the scope of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to cover access to education. As a result disabled children, students and adults seeking access to education now have rights against discrimination under part 4 of the DDA.

The discrimination duties schools have under part 4 of the DDA mean that they must not, without justification, treat disabled pupils or students less favourably than pupils who are not disabled, and they must make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled pupils and students are not put at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to those who are not disabled. Also, schools and local authorities (LAs) are under a duty to plan strategically to increase, over time, access for pupils with disabilities to schools. This duty includes planning to increase access to the school premises and to the curriculum, and providing written material in alternative formats to ensure accessibility.

To support schools in meeting their responsibilities under the DDA, the then DFES published a training resource for schools and local authorities: 'Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings'.

More resources are going into schools to support children with SEN and disabilities. Local authorities' planned spending on SEN stood at almost £4.9 billion in 2007-08, up from almost £2.8 billion in 2000-01. Indicative SEN funding in mainstream schools rose by 52 per cent. from almost £1.3 billion in 2003-04 to over £2.0 billion in 2007-08 and school budgets for special schools rose by 31 per cent. from almost £1.1 billion to over £1.4 billion over the same period. In addition, substantial capital funding—a total of some £800 million up to 2007-08 has been allocated to local authorities and schools through the Schools Access Initiative (SAI) and equivalent voluntary aided funding, which provides capital funding for projects to improve the accessibility of mainstream schools to disabled pupils. Further capital allocations totalling £340 million will be made during the years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

### Schools: Discipline

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much notice a secondary school is required to give parents before keeping a child after school hours on detention. [172150]

**Jim Knight:** Schools are required to give parents at least 24 hours notice in writing of any detention outside normal school hours.

### Schools: Sports

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on participation in school sport of introducing British Summer Time in winter and double British Summer Time in summer. [172340]

**Kevin Brennan:** None.

## Science: Standards

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the reasons for the change in international ranking of UK schools for science since 2000. [172273]

**Jim Knight:** The Government are encouraged by the findings set out in the full international report of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) that was published on 4 December 2007 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It shows that in science, the results for young people in England were significantly above the OECD average. Because this is the first time that science has been the main focus of PISA, the OECD states on page 32 of its international report, "PISA 2006: science competencies for tomorrow's world", that it is not possible for any country to compare science learning outcomes from PISA 2006 with those of earlier PISA assessments.

The study shows that in science we have performed well compared to other countries and that the best English teenagers are among the best in the world and that they greatly value science. But it also shows that a challenge still remains for schools and businesses to get students enthused about science. Work is already under way to meet this challenge, for instance:

> we are already changing the curriculum, giving more pupils the chance to study separate physics, chemistry and biology GCSEs and piloting 250 science clubs for 11 to 14-year-olds. We will also increase the number of science ambassadors (people with industry experience in science and engineering) to 18,000 by 2008 to work with teachers in schools to engage and enthuse young scientists;
>
> next year we will launch a programme of careers guidance to capture young people's imagination by showing them the range of career opportunities available to those who study science;
>
> we are planning a three-year programme of communications activity to support policy reforms in order to increase take up of science post-16.

## Science: Teachers

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers with a level 4 qualification or above in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biology and *(d)* mathematics were teaching in English schools in each of the last 10 years. [172483]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Information on the number of full-time teachers in service in secondary schools by the highest post-A-level qualification in the subject they teach is available from the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS) an occasional sample survey last conducted in 2002 and 2007. 2007 figures are expected to be published in spring 2008.

The following table provides the number of teachers teaching each subject area and the level of qualification in that subject in 2002, the latest information available.

*Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post-A-level qualifications[2] held in the subjects they teach in year groups 7-13, England*

| | Percentages | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Degree*[3] | *BEd* | *PGCE* | *Cert Ed* | *Other Qual* | *No Qual* | *Total [illegible] (Thousand)* |
| Mathematics | 42 ± 3 | 15 ± 2 | 9 ± 2 | 7 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 24 ± 2 | 28.2 |
| English | 51 ± 3 | 15 ± 2 | 7 ± 1 | 6 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 20 ± 2 | 29.4 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Combined/General science | 62 ± 3 | 12 ± 2 | 10 ± 2 | 4 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 11 ± 2 | 28.3 |
| Biology[4] | 71 ± 5 | 7 ± 3 | 11 ± 4 | 3 ± 2 | - ± 1 | 7 ± 3 | 5.6 |
| Chemistry[4] | 72 ± 5 | 6 ± 3 | 12 ± 4 | 1 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 7 ± 3 | 5.2 |
| Physics[4] | 63 ± 6 | 11 ± 4 | 15 ± 4 | 3 ± 2 | - ± - | 8 ± 3 | 4.7 |
| Other sciences[4] | 10 ± 6 | 4 ± 4 | 5 ± 4 | - ± - | - ± - | 80 ± 8 | 1.6 |
| | | | | | | | |
| French | 54 ± 3 | 7 ± 2 | 10 ± 2 | 3 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 23 ± 3 | 16.0 |
| German | 47 ± 5 | 6 ± 3 | 13 ± 4 | 1 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 30 ± 5 | 6.9 |
| Spanish | 37 ± 7 | 8 ± 4 | 19 ± 6 | - ± - | 3 ± 2 | 33 ± 7 | 3.6 |
| Other modern languages | 18 ± 8 | - ± - | 9 ± 7 | - ± - | 3 ± 4 | 71 ± 10 | 1.4 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Design and technology[5] | 26 ± 3 | 20 ± 3 | 7 ± 2 | 21 ± 3 | 2 ± 1 | 24 ± 3 | 20.9 |
| ICT[5, 6] | 13 ± 2 | 6 ± 1 | 8 ± 2 | 2 ± 1 | 3 ± 1 | 69 ± 3 | 18.9 |
| Other/Combined technology[5] | 30± 10 | 13 ± 8 | 16 ± 7 | 18 ± 9 | 2 ± 3 | 20 ± 9 | 1.6 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Business studies | 30 ± 5 | 11 ± 4 | 9 ± 3 | 4 ± 2 | 3 ± 2 | 43 ± 5 | 6.5 |
| Classics | 33 ± 7 | - ± - | 2 ± 4 | 2 ± - | - ± - | [illegible] ± 7 | 1.0 |
| History | 57 ± 4 | 9 ± 2 | 6 ± 2 | 6 ± 2 | - ± - | 23 ± 3 | 13.7 |
| Religious education | 22 ± 3 | 8 ± 2 | 8 ± 2 | 4 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 57 ± 4 | 14.2 |
| Geography | 53 ± 4 | 9 ± 2 | 6 ± 2 | 5 ± 2 | 1 ± 1 | 25 ± 3 | 13.7 |
| Other social studies | 35 ± 5 | 6 ± 3 | 2 ± 2 | 2 ± 1 | - ± 1 | 54 ± 6 | 4.9 |
| Combined arts/humanities/social studies | 5 ± 3 | 4 ± 2 | 7 ± 3 | 1 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 83 ± 5 | 5.3 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Music | 59 ± 5 | 15 ± 4 | 5 ± 2 | 6 ± 3 | 2 ± 2 | 15 ± 4 | 6.3 |

*Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post-A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13. England*

| | Percentages | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Degree[3] | BEd | PGCE | Cert Ed | Other Qual. | No Qual. | Total teachers (Thousand) |
| Drama | 25 ± 4 | 10 ± 3 | 12 ± 3 | 6 ± 2 | 2 ± 1 | 45 ± 5 | 8.1 |
| Art and design | 54 ± 4 | 10 ± 3 | 7 ± 2 | 9 ± 3 | 1 ± 1 | 20 ± 4 | 9.3 |
| Physical education | 25 ± 3 | 31 ± 3 | 6 ± 2 | 13 ± 2 | 2 ± 1 | 22 ± 2 | 21.4 |
| Careers education | 2 ± 2 | 1 ± 2 | 3 ± 3 | 4 ± 4 | 3 ± 4 | 87 ± 7 | 1.5 |
| PSHE[6] | 1 ± - | 1 ± - | 2 ± 1 | 1 ± - | - ± - | 95 ± 1 | 61.4 |
| General studies | 1 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | - ± 1 | - ± - | 95 ± 2 | 7.1 |
| Citizenship | 2 ± 1 | 1 ± 1 | 2 ± 1 | - ± 1 | - ± - | 94 ± 2 | 9.0 |
| Other | | — | | — | — | — | 32.8 |
| Total[2] | 33 ± - | 10 ± - | 7 ± - | 5 ± - | 1 ± - | 44 ± - | 388.4 |

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post-A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

*Source:*

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

## Secondary Education: Pupil Exclusions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fixed period exclusions there were in secondary schools in each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; what percentage of the school population this represented in each year; and if he will make a statement. [172098]

**Kevin Brennan:** The available information is given in the table.

Information on the number of fixed period exclusions during 2006/07 is expected to be available in June 2008.

*Maintained secondary schools[1] [2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by type of school England, 2003/04-2005/06[3]*

| | 2003/04[3] [4] | 2004/05[4] | 2005/06[5] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of fixed period exclusions | 288,040 | 329,680 | 343,840 |
| Percentage of school population[6] | 8.66 | 9.94 | 10.40 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] In 2003/04, information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time.

[4] Information on fixed period exclusions has been derived from termly exclusion survey returns.

[5] For the 2005/06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was collected via the school census for the first time (the termly exclusions survey has been discontinued).

For exclusions during 2006/07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools.

[6] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.

*Note:*

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

Termly exclusions survey and school census

## Secondary Education: School Meals

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the level of take-up of school meals in secondary schools was since September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [172120]

**Kevin Brennan:** The level of take-up of school lunches in secondary schools since September 2007 is not yet recorded. The School Food Trust (SFT) carries out an annual survey of school meal take-up. The second annual survey was conducted in April 2007; and a further survey will take place in 2008.

Increasing take-up of school lunches is a priority for this Department and for the SFT. The SFT has a target to increase take-up of school lunches, from a 2005-06 baseline, by four percentage points by March 2008 and by 10 percentage points by autumn 2009. In addition, school lunch take-up is now an indicator in both the local government national indicator set, from which local authorities and their partners will agree their own targets in local area agreements; and public service agreement 12—'Improve the health and well-being of children and young people'—of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

## Secondary Education: Standards

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which secondary schools have gone into special measures in each month since 1st January 2007; and what proportion of pupils in each such school achieved five A* to C GCSEs in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [172775]

**Jim Knight:** The following table lists the secondary schools that have been placed in special measures by Ofsted since 1 January 2007. It also shows, where applicable, the percentage of pupils in each school who achieved five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent in 2006. The results for 2007 will not be published until January 2008.

| *School name* | *Local authority* | *Date of Ofsted inspection* | *Percentage of pupils achieving five A*-C grades in 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Ridings | Calderdale | 18 January 2007 | 19 |
| Tividale Community Arts College | Sandwell | 18 January 2007 | 25 |
| Cheadle High School | Staffordshire | 25 January 2007 | 50 |
| West Sleekburn Middle (deemed secondary) School | Northumberland | 1 February 2007 | [1]n/a |
| Hameldon Community College | Lancashire | 22 February 2007 | [2]n/a |
| Elgar Technology College | Worcestershire | 22 February 2007 | 27 |
| Burnham Upper School | Buckinghamshire | 28 February 2007 | 37 |
| Grylls Community Middle (deemed secondary) School | Kirklees | 28 February 2007 | [1]n/a |
| Woodhouse High School | Staffordshire | 28 February 2007 | 40 |
| The City School | Sheffield | 8 March 2007 | 34 |
| Sheredes School | Hertfordshire | 15 March 2007 | 48 |
| City of Preston High School | Lancashire | 27 March 2007 | 24 |
| Redditch, Dingleside Middle (deemed secondary) School | Worcestershire | 26 April 2007 | [1]n/a |
| Elm Tree Middle (deemed secondary) School | Suffolk | 10 May 2007 | [1]n/a |
| Earlham High School | Norfolk | 16 May 2007 | 37 |
| Egerton Park Arts College | Tameside | 17 May 2007 | 41 |
| Alderman Blaxill School | Essex | 24 May 2007 | 34 |
| South Leeds High School | Leeds | 07/06/2007 | 27 |
| The Grays School Media Arts College | Thurrock | 29 June 2007 | 46 |
| Bexleyheath School | Bexley | 3 October 2007 | 41 |
| Bishops Park College | Essex | 11 October 2007 | [3]0 |
| The Alfred Barrow School | Cumbria | 12 October 2007 | 21 |
| Ulverston Victoria High School | Cumbria | 31 October 2007 | 65 |
| Parrs Wood High School | Manchester | 31 October 2007 | 71 |
| Costessey High School | Norfolk | 31 October 2007 | 44 |
| Billingham Campus School | Stockton on Tees | 31 October 2007 | 32 |

[1] Middle deemed secondary schools have no GCSE level results.

[2] School opened in.

[3] Only seven pupils in cohort September 2006.

## Teachers: Pay

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the consequences are for a school which does not comply with the stipulations of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. [172174]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: Local authorities and governing bodies of maintained schools must comply with the provisions of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document because it has statutory force. Any failure on the part of LAs or governing bodies to comply with its provisions would therefore be unlawful and actionable by teachers by way of judicial review.

In addition to this, those provisions which relate to conditions of employment other than pay have effect as terms of the teachers contracts of employment[1], breach of which could give rise to claims by teachers before the courts/employment tribunal for compensation or other remedies.

The Secretary of State also has powers under section 497 of the Education Act 1996[2] to intervene and direct a local authority or school governing body to comply with any provision of the STPCD, where he is satisfied that it is in default of its statutory obligation to do so.

[1] By virtue of section 122(2)(b) Education Act 2002.

[2] The so-called 'general default powers'.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the consequences are for non-maintained schools which fail to comply with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document where this is included in teachers' contracts. [172175]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: Non-maintained schools which incorporate the provisions of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document into their contracts of employment with teachers would be in breach of contract if they fail to comply with any of those provisions. Such a breach could give rise to a claim by the teacher before the courts/employment tribunal for compensation or other remedy.

## Teachers: Standards

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to improve the quality of teaching in primary and secondary schools since 1997. [165420]

**Jim Knight:** Since 1997 we have focused strongly on improving the quality of teaching at both primary and secondary levels through the Primary National Strategy and the Secondary National Strategy. They are our key levers to raise standards of teaching and learning in all four Key Stages, and it is through them that we provide a wealth of training, guidance and materials aimed at supporting teachers and improve the quality of teaching. We continue to invest in and offer a range of different ways of training to teach. Through all of this we support teachers in helping children make the fastest possible progress.

The quality of teaching in our primary and secondary schools has risen significantly since 1997 and Ofsted say that we have the best generation of teachers ever. This is evidenced by ever increasing standards in literacy and mathematics. In total over 375,000 more young people gained 5 or more good GCSEs over the period 1997-2006. Provisional results for 2007 show that 60.3 per cent. achieved 5 A*-C grades (an increase of 13.4 percentage points since 1997) and 45.7 per cent. achieved 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and maths (up 9.7 percentage points since 1997). At primary in 2007 80 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved the target level 4 or above in English and 77 per cent. did so in maths. In 1997 less than two thirds of 11-year-olds reached this level in either subject (63 per cent. in English and 62 per cent. in maths).

But we want to do even more to improve the quality of teaching. Through revised performance management arrangements, introduced in September, we will ensure that all teachers have objectives which reflect their own individual development needs.

## Teachers: Training

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students were recruited for initial teacher training in *(a)* science, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* design technology and information and communication technology in each of the last 10 years. [172484]

**Jim Knight:** The following tables show recruitment through mainstream and employment-based routes (EBR) for initial teacher training (ITT) courses for science, mathematics, design and technology and information and communications technology between 1997/98 and 2006/07.

*Recruitment to mainstream initial teacher training courses[1, 2], academic year 1997/98 to 2006/07, England*

| *Secondary subject[3]* | *1997/98* | *1998/99* | *1999/2000* | *2000/01* | *2001/02* | *2002/03* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mathematics | 1,460 | 1,120 | 1,300 | 1,290 | 1,550 | 1,670 | 1,940 | 2,030 | 1,920 | 2,000 |
| Science | 2,790 | 2,280 | 2,360 | 2,410 | 2,590 | 2,700 | 2,870 | 2,830 | 2,890 | 2,990 |
| Design and Technology | 1,030 | 810 | 790 | 860 | 970 | 960 | 1,070 | 940 | 940 | 1,010 |
| Information and Communications Technology | 380 | 400 | 460 | 520 | 620 | 800 | 930 | 960 | 920 | 930 |

[1] Recruitment figures for 2006/07 are provisional and are subject to change.

[2] Includes universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment-based routes. Recruitment numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 10.

[3] Excludes vocational subjects e.g. applied ICT, applied science, engineering from 2003/4 onwards.

*Source:*

TDA survey of ITT providers.

*Recruitment to initial teacher training, employment-based routes[1], academic year 1997/98 to 2006/07, England*

| *Secondary subject[1]* | *1997/98* | *1998/99* | *1999/2000* | *2000/01* | *2001/02* | *2002/03* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *Autumn term 2006/07[2]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mathematics | * | 30 | 70 | 120 | 300 | 390 | 570 | 560 | 520 | 290 |
| Science | * | 50 | 80 | 170 | 460 | 520 | 660 | 750 | 660 | 400 |
| Design and Technology[3] | 0 | 30 | 60 | 190 | 240 | 300 | 320 | 290 | 290 | 190 |
| Information and Communications Technology | 0 | 0 | 20 | 80 | 230 | 340 | 370 | 390 | 350 | 210 |

[1] Recruitment numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 10. '*'represents less than 10.

[2] Recruitment in 2006/07 is for the autumn term only and is provisional. Figures from 2003/04 onwards are subject to future revision.

[3] Design and technology includes textiles.

*Note:*

Figures prior to 2002/03 are taken from TDA records as at the end of the academic year. Figures for 2002/03 onwards are taken from the TDA EBR database as at January 2007 and are not directly comparable with previous years. 2003/04 was the first year of the Teach First programme. Teach First data for 2003/04 and 2004/05 are at November of the academic year Teach First data for 2005/06 and autumn term 2006/07 are at January 2007.

*Sources:*

TDA Employment Based Routes Database.

Teach First Organisation.

Updated tables, incorporating final 2006/07 and provisional 2007/08 recruitment data, are scheduled to be published in January 2008.

## Truancy

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of unauthorised absence was of 15 to 16-year-olds in the latest period for which figures are available. [172057]

**Kevin Brennan:** The readily available information relates to absence rates by national curriculum year group. In 2005/06 the unauthorised absence rate of pupils in national curriculum year group 11 (typically aged 15 at the start of the school year) was 2.43 per cent.[1].

Information on absence is collected centrally for those pupils who are of compulsory school age. Absence rates for pupils who are aged 16 (at the start of the school year) are not collected centrally.

### Young People: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 to 18-year-olds in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire were not in education, employment or training in the most recent period for which figures are available. [173419]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department publishes annual estimates of the number of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England. These estimates cannot be disaggregated to local authority or constituency level.

However, we can use information collected by the Connexions Service to estimate the number and proportion of young people NEET at local authority level. The 2006 estimate for Lancashire is that 2,820 (7.5 per cent.) of 16 to 18-year-olds were NEET. Figures are not available separately for Ribble Valley constituency.

### Young People: Unemployment

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people aged 18 in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England have not been in education, employment or training in each year since 1997. [169970]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department publishes annual estimates of the number of 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET), and figures for 1997 to 2006 are shown in the table.

| | *18-year-olds NEET* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 68,300 | 11.6 |
| 1998 | 75,600 | 12.5 |
| 1999 | 60,900 | 10.2 |
| 2000 | 76,900 | 13.1 |
| 2001 | 71,000 | 11.8 |
| 2002 | 75,400 | 12.1 |
| 2003 | 79,900 | 12.3 |
| 2004 | 80,100 | 12.3 |
| 2005 | 90,800 | 13.6 |
| 2006 (provisional) | 100,700 | 14.8 |

The 18-year-old population has risen from 602,000 to 680,000 during this period.

These estimates cannot be disaggregated to regional, local authority or constituency level. However, we can use information collected by the Connexions Service to estimate of the number of 18-year-olds NEET at local authority level since 2005, and regionally since 2003. These are shown in the table as follows.

| *As at December* | *South Tyneside* | *Percentage* | *North East* | *Percentage* | *England* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | — | — | 4,190 | 12.4 | 53,770 | 8.8 |
| 2004 | — | — | 4,540 | 13.2 | 47,420 | 8.0 |
| 2005 | 320 | 15.6 | 4,350 | 12.6 | 49,540 | 8.1 |
| 2006 | 240 | 12.4 | 4,570 | 13.2 | 50,020 | 8.1 |

*Note:*
Figures are not available for Jarrow constituency.

The DCSF and Connexions estimates are collected very differently. They use different definitions of age and NEET. As a result, Connexions estimates are lower, although the two sets of figures generally show a similar trend across a period of time.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### National Institute for Medical Research: Industrial Health and Safety

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the potential biosecurity risk to central London from the planned relocation of the National Institute for Medical Research. [171950]

**Ian Pearson:** Biosecurity will be a major consideration for the consortium developing the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI). The consortium will be working closely with the relevant agencies, including the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and as plans develop they will ensure that the facilities meet regulatory requirements.

### Adult Education: Concessions

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many local authorities offered concessionary fees for adult education courses for people over the age of 65 years in the 12-month period *(a)* before and *(b)* after the introduction of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. [169495]

**Bill Rammell:** We recognise the importance of adult learning in meeting a range of personal, social and community needs and we know how much people, particularly older learners, value and enjoy their courses. The Government remain fully committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners and that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the work force.

Fee concessions for further education (FE) provision are offered at the discretion of FE providers, including local authorities (LA). As a result information on those learners who receive these concessions is not held by my Department.

We do not want older people to be priced out of learning. Therefore, in line with our fee remission policies, older learners on limited incomes should not have to contribute to the tuition costs of their learning. We define limited incomes as receiving a means-tested benefit like housing benefit, income support or the pension (guarantee) credit.

[1] Across maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.

Many older people will also be able to take advantage of free access to literacy and numeracy courses, as well as free tuition to undertake first full level 2 vocational qualifications.

However, I would like to make clear that the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 do not bar providers from offering fee discounts for learners aged 65 and over. They allow for such positive action provided that it can be objectively justified. I refer the hon. Member to my written statement on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

### Animal Experiments: Finance

**Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much of the budget held by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research is used for the replacement of the use of animals in research. [170606]

**Ian Pearson:** Since it was launched in 2004, the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research has committed £5.3 million to support 31 research projects. 18 of these projects, at a total cost of £3.4 million, are aimed at replacing the use of animals in scientific research and testing.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many officials from his Department attended the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism on 11 October, broken down by grade; and if he will make a statement; [172411]

(2) which Ministers from his Department attended the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism on 11 October; and if he will make a statement. [172412]

**Bill Rammell:** The meeting was attended by one official from my Department, who had the correct policy knowledge for the area. The official's grade was Higher Executive Officer. No Ministers attended the meeting from any Government Department, as the working group has delegated responsibility to take forward the 35 recommendations published in the Government's response.

I can assure you that my Department deplores any acts of racial or religious intolerance in higher education. We are committed to tackling any form of anti-Semitism and racial intolerance in general. Although higher education institutions have primary responsibility for ensuring equal opportunities and for abiding by legislation in this area, and taking forward the recommendations in the inquiry's report which were addressed to the sector, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is committed to encouraging the higher education sector to ensure that discrimination has no place in any of its policies or practices.

### Apprentices

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of *(a)* the 800 level 2 adult training places, *(b)* the 500,000 level 3 adult training places and *(c)* the 400,000 apprenticeship places announced by his Department on 16 November 2007 will be filled in 2010-11. [173418]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: We intend for all the publicly funded places made available in 2010/11 to be filled. World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England sets out how we will reform provision and create the demand to do that.

### Apprentices: Cleethorpes

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships there were in Cleethorpes constituency in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [172518]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts from August to July in each year in Humberside local LSC area. (These figures are not readily available at parliamentary constituency level.)

*Thousands*

| | *Advanced apprenticeships* | *Apprenticeships* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004/05 | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| 2005/06 | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| 2006/07 | 1.0 | 2.1 |

### English Language: Teachers

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many qualifying English for Speakers of Other Languages teachers with a degree from *(a)* a Russell Group and *(b)* another British university there were in each of the last 10 years in (i) England and (ii) London. [172491]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not collected centrally.

### Further Education Funding Council: Finance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what proportion of the Further Education Funding Council's budget was spent on in-house education and training in each of its last four years of existence; [165529]

(2) how much the Further Education Funding Council spent on administration costs in each of its final four years of operation. [165533]

**Bill Rammell:** The Further Education Funding Council (FEFC) was dissolved when the Learning and Skills Council became operational in April 2001.

The following table sets out the staff training costs of the FEFC and what proportion this was of the total spend on administration:

| *FEFC annual report* | *In-house staff training costs (£000)* | *Administration costs (£000)* | *Percentage of spend on administration* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 336 | 23,972 | 1.4 |
| 1998-99 | 362 | 23,323 | 1.6 |
| 1999-2000 | 482 | 25,526 | 1.9 |
| 2000-01 | 438 | 32,410 | 1.4 |

The following table sets out the administration costs from FEFC's annual reports published for each of the last four years of its operation:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| | *Administration costs* |
| 1997-98 | 23,972 |
| 1998-99 | 23,323 |
| 1999-2000 | 25,526 |
| 2000-01 | 32,410 |

### Further Education: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance has been issued to further education colleges on fee payments for courses by persons claiming income support; and what steps have been taken to enforce the rules on fee exemptions. [171969]

**Bill Rammell:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) issues annual guidance to colleges on which learners and which provision are eligible for fee remission or exemption. Guidance for the current academic year is in the 'Funding Guidance for Further Education in 2007/08[1]' booklet issued by the LSC in March 2007 and the 'LSC Learner Eligibility Guidance 2007/08' booklet published in July 2007.

The guidance is clear that colleges have a mandatory duty to exempt from all costs learners aged 16-18 and all learners undertaking Skills for Life courses. It also describes other categories of LSC-funded provision where learners may be eligible for full fee remission. These include those on their first full level 2 qualifications, 19-25 year olds on their first full level 3 qualification and those in receipt of income-related benefits including income support. Colleges will be subject to audit arrangements on the funding they claim in respect of learners including those for whom they claim full fees.

Any provision funded by other funding bodies, including local authorities, will not be covered by the LSC guidance, but may be covered by separate arrangements for fee remission that are agreed with that funding body.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what definition the UCAS form uses of an EU national; who drew up the form using that term; whether the use of the term is a European Union requirement; and if he will review the UCAS form. [170566]

**Bill Rammell:** The term EU National on the UCAS application indicates that the applicant should identify him or herself as an EU national if he or she is a citizen of one of the 26 nation states which, in addition to the UK, make up the European Union. UCAS drew up the form using this term, which is not an EU requirement. The purpose of this question is to provide guidance to institutions on the residency of the potential student. I see no reason for UCAS to review the form.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 universities attracted the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest numbers of students from socio-economic classes (i) C, (ii) D and (iii) E in each year since 1997. [172275]

**Bill Rammell:** The available information is shown in the accompanying tables. The figures show proportions of UK-domiciled young (aged under 21) entrants to full-time first degree courses at each higher education institution, who are from lower social classes over the period 1997/98-2001/02, and the proportions from lower socio-economic classes over the period 2002/03-2005/06. The social classification in the student data changed in the 2002/03 academic year, and the two classifications are not comparable.

This information is taken from the annual performance indicators in higher education, which are currently published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

For each institution, the social class/socio-economic class proportion is shown against a benchmark. This is a sector average which is adjusted for each institution to take into account the following factors: subject of study, qualifications on entry and age on entry.

The benchmarks can be used to show how a university is performing compared to the sector as a whole, and also help to determine whether a meaningful comparison can be drawn between two or more universities.

Figures for 2006/07 will be available in 2008.

There are some points which need to be considered when using the accompanying tables:

1. The tables include the numbers of young entrants to each institution. From this it is clear that the number of students at each institution varies widely, and some have less than 100 students. Figures based on small numbers such as these should be treated with care.

2. Each year some institutions do not have figures included in the performance indicators publication due to problems with their data. It is possible that any of these could have been placed in the highest and lowest groups if the data for that year had been available.

The proportion of students from low social classes/low socio-economic classes for each institution has been calculated using information on students whose social class/socio-economic class background is known. A significant proportion of students' social backgrounds are unknown and so exact numbers cannot be determined.

*Proportion of UK-domiciled young (under 21) full-time first degree entrants to higher education institutions, who are from socio-economic classes 4, 5, 6 and 7—2005/06*

| | Number who are young | Percent from NS-SEC classes 4, 5, 6, and 7 | Bench mark (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Ten institutions with highest socio-economic class proportions:* | | | |
| Harper Adams University College | 260 | 59.0 | 36.5 |
| The University of Wolverhampton | 2,490 | 50.0 | 38.1 |
| The University of East London | 1260 | 48.8 | 37.7 |
| The University of Greenwich | 1,825 | 47.1 | 37.2 |
| The University of Teesside | 1,500 | 45.6 | 37.6 |
| Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies | 370 | 45.4 | 40.3 |
| Middlesex University | 2,370 | 44.6 | 37.8 |
| Newman College of Higher Education | 330 | 44.3 | 36.1 |
| The University of Bradford | 1,500 | 43.7 | 34.6 |
| University of Bedfordshire | 685 | 43.0 | 39.4 |
| *Ten institutions with lowest socio-economic class proportions:* | | | |
| London School of Economics and Political Science | 575 | 17.5 | 19.4 |
| University College London | 2,080 | 17.5 | 20.5 |
| Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine | 1,295 | 17.3 | 20.8 |
| The University of York | 1,885 | 17.1 | 20.5 |
| The University of Nottingham | 4,200 | 16.9 | 22.3 |
| Royal Academy of Music | 45 | 16.7 | 25.9 |
| The University of Bristol | 2,845 | 16.4 | 20.7 |
| University of Durham | 3,195 | 16.4 | 21.9 |
| University of London (Institutes and activities) | 30 | 12.0 | 19.9 |
| The University of Oxford | 2,790 | 11.4 | 18.3 |

*Notes:*

1. The socio-economic group classification was introduced in 2002/03 to replace the social class groupings. The two classifications are not directly comparable.

2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5.

*Source:*

"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

## Higher Education: Age Participation Rates

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he plans to extend the study of the young participation in higher education rate by local authority beyond 2000. [172593]

**Bill Rammell:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England will extend the analysis referred to in PQ 172593. This work is under way and nearing completion. Updated annual young HE participation rates covering the young cohorts who reached 18 between 2001 and 2004 will be released for local geographies, including local authorities, early next year.

## Higher Education: Newcastle

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take to encourage an increase in undergraduate course applications from those school leavers who reside in the Newcastle local education authority area. [172761]

**Bill Rammell:** Attainment at GCSE level is a key factor in determining participation in higher education. Nationally, at GCSE, the A*-C pass rate increased to 63.3 per cent. in 2007 from 62.4 per cent. in 2006. Academies are challenging the culture of under-achievement and, in Newcastle, Excelsior Academy is opening in September 2008. We are also seeking to strengthen schools' partnerships with universities to raise standards further.

In July, we announced further improvements to the financial help available to students. No students need to be deterred from higher education because of the costs. We have also announced that the national Aimhigher programme, which runs a range of activities to raise aspirations and increase pupil attainment, will continue for another three years. The vast majority of schools and colleges in Newcastle have one or more Aimhigher-funded Progression Coaches to provide tailored support to groups and individuals. Aimhigher in Newcastle is also looking at ways to raise awareness of vocational higher education options through Foundation Degree taster courses, and is raising the attainment of learners by investigating awards such as the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness.

## Learning and Skills Council for England: Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste the Learning and Skills Council recycled in each of the last five years. [172417]

**Bill Rammell:** In May this year the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) published its Sustainable Development Action Plan. Over the next 10 years the LSC aims to have become an exemplar organisation by integrating sustainable development into its policies and everyday practice. Information on the volume of waste recycled is not collected. The LSC currently recycles shredded waste paper, fluorescent tubes and toner cartridges.

## National Institute for Medical Research

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the features of the National Institute for Medical Research's site at Mill Hill that make a relocation of the institute necessary. [172188]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government have accepted the Medical Research Council's case to relocate the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) to a central London location based on the council's vision for the institute, as this would:

> enhance the multidisciplinary nature of NIMR's work, providing much improved access to other biomedical researchers, physical scientists, engineers and mathematicians; and
>
> provide opportunities to collaborate more closely with clinicians and strengthen the impact of translational research, thereby exploiting alongside the medical and healthcare cluster in central London.

## School Leaving

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research was used as the basis for calculating the economic benefits of increasing the compulsory education age to 18 years. [172372]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The basis of the estimate of economic benefits of raising the participation age (RPA) in education or training is new joint research by Sheffield university and DCSF. The research's central estimate of the additional benefits of RPA is around £2.4 billion for a single cohort of young people discounted over their lifetimes. This research was published alongside the introduction of the Education and Skills Bill to the House on 29 November.

For further details of the methodology and data sources used to estimate the economic benefits of RPA (and the magnitude of the benefits under alternative scenarios), the full report is accessible at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RW026.pdf. The research will also be placed in the House of Commons Library.

## Science: Qualifications

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what percentage of degrees awarded in science, technology, engineering or mathematics were awarded as equivalent or lower-level qualifications in the last 10 years; [171961]

(2) how many students in higher education studying for a science, technology, engineering or mathematics degree were pursuing equivalent or lower-level qualifications in the last 10 years. [171962]

**Bill Rammell:** The precise information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the following table sets out the number and proportion of students studying the major science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects as equivalent or lower-level qualifications (ELQ) in 2005/06. Subject to consultation, we plan to continue to support vulnerable strategic subjects including STEM subjects studied as ELQs. The £100 million to be redistributed as a result of our ELQ policy will also enable more students to study STEM subjects as first degrees than would otherwise be the case.

We have already announced that we will be spending an extra £75 million over three years to support relatively expensive STEM subjects.

*Number and proportion of students studying major STEM subjects as equivalent or lower qualifications*

| *Subject* | *ELQ students* | *ELQ students as percentage of total* |
|---|---|---|
| Maths | 590 | 4 |
| Physics | 180 | 2 |
| Chemistry | 140 | 2 |
| Biology | 340 | 3 |
| General Engineering | 320 | 5 |
| Electronic Engineering | 300 | 2 |
| Mechanical Engineering | 230 | 3 |

## Training

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will break down by scheme the 7.5 million training places announced in Her Majesty's Gracious Speech. [172271]

**Bill Rammell:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Statement of Priorities published on 16 November set out the funding strategy for post-16 further education (FE) and skills for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period (2008-09 to 2010-11). Total investment on post-16 FE and skills will increase from £11.2 billion in 2007-08 to £12.4 billion in 2010-11.

Funding for adult participation will be £3.6 billion in 2010-11, an increase of 17 per cent. compared with 2007-08. This will support on average 3 million adult learners each year on programmes ranging from on-line courses to full-time qualifications taken in FE colleges (this includes learners funded through the adult learner responsive and employer responsive models, and the adult safeguarded budget).

The 7.5 million adult learners refers to the total adult places funded through the adult learner and employer responsive models (rounded to the nearest half a million) as set out in the joint Grant Letter to the LSC from my Department and Department for Children, Schools and Families. Annex C to the Grant Letter provides a breakdown of these figures by programme and can be found at

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications.html

Between 2007/08 and 2010/11, the funding settlement will allow us to increase the number of fully funded adult places at full level 2 (5 A*-C GCSEs or their equivalent) by over 30 per cent., and at full level 3 (2 A-levels or more or their equivalent) by around 148 per cent. It will also support an additional 30,000 apprenticeship places for learners aged 25 or over during the CSR period. £1.5 billion per year will be available to support a full range of pre-level 2 first steps and progression programmes.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of individuals who will receive a training place following the announcement by his Department on 16 November 2007. [173172]

**Bill Rammell:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Statement of Priorities published on 16 November set out the funding strategy for post-16 further education (FE) and skills for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period (2008-09 to 2010-11).

Total investment on post-16 FE and skills will increase from £11.2 billion in 2007-08 to £12.4 billion in 2010-11.

Funding for adult participation will be £3.6 billion in 2010-11, an increase of 17 per cent. compared with 2007-08. This will support on average over 3 million adult learners each year on programmes ranging from on-line courses to full-time qualifications taken in FE colleges. Specifically, it will allow us to increase the number of fully funded adult places at full level 2 (5 A*-C GCSEs or their equivalent) by over 30 per cent. and at full level 3 (2 A-levels or more or their equivalent) by around 148 per cent. It will also support an additional 30,000 apprenticeship places for learners aged 25 or over during the CSR period and £1.5 billion per year will be available to support a full range of pre-level 2 first steps and progression programmes.

Funding for young people (aged 16 to 19) will be £6.9 billion in 2010-11, an increase of 14 per cent. compared with 2007-08. This puts the Government firmly on track to drive up participation and attainment towards the goal of achieving 86 per cent. participation by the end of the CSR period and on to 90 per cent. by 2013, while significantly narrowing achievement gaps through access to a wider range of progression routes, including through a significant expansion of apprenticeships and the roll-out of the new diplomas.

Annex C to the joint Grant Letter to the LSC from my Department and Department for Children, Schools and Families provides a breakdown of the number of funded places by programme and can be found at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications.html

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of the training places announced by his Department on 16 November 2007 will be provided *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* via online arrangements. [173173]

**Bill Rammell:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Statement of Priorities published on 16 November set out the funding strategy for post-16 further education (FE) and skills for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period (2008-09 to 2010-11). Total investment on post-16 FE and skills will increase from £11.2 billion in 2007-08 to £12.4 billion in 2010-11.

Funding for adult participation will be £3.6 billion in 2010-11, an increase of 17 per cent. compared with 2007-08. This will support on average over 3 million adult learners each year on programmes ranging from online courses to full-time qualifications taken in FE colleges. Specifically, it will allow us to increase the number of fully funded adult places at full level 2 (5 A* - C GCSEs or their equivalent) by over 30 per cent. and at full level 3 (2 A-levels or more or their equivalent) by around 148 per cent. It will also support an additional 30,000 apprenticeship places for learners aged 25 or over during the CSR period and £1.5 billion per year will be available to support a full range of pre-level 2 first steps and progression programmes.

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Annex C to the joint Grant Letter to the LSC from my Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families provides a breakdown of the number of funded places by programme and can be found at:

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## Union Learning Fund

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has commissioned any assessment of the effectiveness of the Union Learning Fund in the past three years. [173164]

**Mr. Lammy:** An evaluation of the Union Learning Fund (2001 to 2005), which surveyed a range of employers, individual learners and unions involved in ULF, was undertaken on behalf of the former Department for Education and Skills by York Consulting Ltd. Key findings from this evaluation indicate that:

almost two thirds of those employers who responded had a learning agreement in place as a result of ULF and 75 per cent. reported an increase in Skills for Life learning;

11,000 union learning reps had been recruited but many were not as active as they would like due to a lack of employer support;

153,000 people had accessed learning opportunities, the vast majority of whom were able to apply their skills in the workplace;

Unions had successfully used ULF funds to develop their learning policies and strategies, improving their capacity to support the learning agenda.

A copy of this evaluation report is available in the House of Commons Library.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding was allocated to the Union Learning Fund in each year since 1998. [173165]

**Mr. Lammy:** Trade unions have a key role to play in promoting the development of learning and skills in the workplace. To help them do this more effectively we introduced the Union Learning Fund in 1998. This source of funding is helping trade unions use their influence with employers, employees and training providers to encourage greater take-up of learning at work and boost their own capacity as learning organisations. Since 1998 annual expenditure on the Union Learning Fund has been as follows:

| | *Annual expenditure on Union Learning fund (£million)* |
|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 1.7 |
| 1999/2000 | 3.1 |
| 2000/01 | 3.9 |
| 2001/02 | 6.3 |
| 2002/03 | 7.4 |
| 2003/04 | 12.2 |
| 2004/05 | 14.4 |

| | *Annual expenditure on Union Learning fund (£million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005/06 | 15.4 |
| 2006/07 | 16.9 |

The budget for 2007/08 is £18.4 million.

With the help of the Union Learning Fund, trade unions and their union learning representatives have been really successful in working with employers to raise skill levels in the work place. There are now over 18,000 trained union learning reps who have helped over 400,000 workers back into learning since the Fund was introduced. Over 150,000 last year alone, many of whom were Skills for Life learners, those most in need of new skills who employers and training providers find it so difficult to reach.

### Young People: Wirral

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people between the ages of 18 and 24 years in Wirral, West constituency are not in education, employment or training; and what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of those entering higher education. [173616]

**Bill Rammell:** Annual average estimates of the numbers and proportion of people who are not in education, employment or training are available at a local level from the Annual Population Survey (APS). However, this information cannot be provided for the 18 to 24 age group for the Wirral, West constituency because the number in the sample is so small that ONS rules on protecting confidentiality do not permit disclosure. Estimates for 2006 for Wirral local education authority (LEA), and by comparison Merseyside/Halton Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the North West and England, are shown in the table as follows. As with all sample surveys, estimates from the APS are subject to sampling variability and the smaller the geography the smaller the sample and hence the larger the sampling variability relative to the estimate. Estimates for small areas should therefore be treated with caution.

*18 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training (APS. 2006)*

| *Area* | *Number* | *Total* | *Per cent* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wirrall LEA | 4,000 | 22,000 | 20 |
| Merseyside/ Halton LSC | 25,000 | 136,000 | 19 |
| North West | 98,000 | 589,000 | 17 |
| England | 686,000 | 4,248,000 | 16 |

[1] Based on academic age—ie age as at the previous 31 August. For example, someone of academic age 18 is the age one would most often expect someone to enter higher education if they do not take a gap year (ie they will be in their third academic year since completing compulsory education).

The Government remain committed to ensuring that all those with the merit and potential to benefit from higher education are able and willing to do so. The Government will provide an average real-terms increase in funding for higher education of around 2.5 per cent. per annum to 2011, which means that in 2010-11 there will be over £1.5 billion of additional funding compared with 2007-08, with funded student numbers rising to around 1.2 million by 2010-11—50,000 more than now. Alongside this the Government support the Aimhigher Programme, which seeks to raise aspirations and motivation to enter higher education among young people who are from under-represented backgrounds. The programme was launched nationally in August 2004, is delivered through 45 area-based partnerships of schools, colleges and higher education institutions.

The Government also offer non-repayable grants. The full grant will be £2,835 per annum from September 2008. At the same time the income threshold for a full grant for new entrants will increase from £17,500 to £25,000 and for partial grant to £60,005. Student numbers in England are up by 323,000 since 1997 to 1.95 million in 2005/06.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 13 December 2007*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Oral Statements

38. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the procedures for oral statements by Ministers. [173667]

**Helen Goodman:** Oral statements are one of the most valued and effective parts of the House's proceedings. The Government have no plans to propose any changes to present procedures, though we are always open to representations from hon. Members on this as on other matters.

### Voting Rights

40. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Leader of the House what the Government's policy is on the right of right hon. and hon. Members representing Scottish constituencies to vote on matters relating to England where responsibility for such matters in Scotland has been devolved to the Scottish Executive. [173669]

**Helen Goodman:** The Prime Minister has previously set out the Government's policy to the House on the 3 July. This Government do not accept that there should be any discrimination in the rights of hon. Members to take part in the business before the House. 'English votes for English laws' would lead to the break up of the Union. This Government believes in the Union and will do nothing to harm it. Constitutional issues are the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Justice Secretary.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each Civil Service grade are employed by her Office. [172743]

**Ms Harman:** The following table gives information for people currently working in my office who are employed by the Cabinet Office.

| *Grade* | *Female* | *Male* |
|---|---|---|
| ScS | 0 | 1 |
| Special Adviser | 2 | 0 |
| A | 0 | 2 |
| B | 2 | 3 |
| C | 1 | 4 |

In addition there are four members of staff who are either on loan or paid for by the Department of Work and Pensions to support me in my duties as Minister for Women and Equalities.

| *Grade* | *Female* | *Male* |
|---|---|---|
| ScS | 0 | 0 |
| Special Adviser | 0 | 0 |
| A | 1 | 0 |
| B | 1 | 0 |
| C | 0 | 2 |

### Departmental Meetings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Leader of the House what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* purpose was of each meeting she attended with the Prime Minister in (i) the week commencing 19 November and (ii) the week commencing 26 November. [173345]

**Ms Harman:** I have regular meetings with the Prime Minister.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Rape

16. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps she is taking to increase conviction rates for rape. [173642]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) now monitors all rape cases to ensure consistent good practice. The CPS works with the voluntary and community sector and the police to improve the service to victims and to build stronger cases. A cross government group is overseeing performance to address local variations in investigation and prosecution.

### Anti-trafficking Legislation

17. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment she has made of the effect of the UK's anti-trafficking legislation on the ability of the Crown Prosecution Service successfully to prosecute trafficking offences. [173643]

**The Solicitor-General:** I am satisfied that our human trafficking legislation is as effective as possible to ensure the Crown Prosecution Service is able to prosecute successfully those who commit such offences. In addition the Crown Prosecution Service is tasked with keeping under review the anti-trafficking legislation under the UK Action Plan on Trafficking.

### "Undercover Mosque"

18. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions she has had with the Crown Prosecution Service over the decision of the west midlands Crown Prosecution Service and West Midlands Police to refer the programme "Undercover Mosque" to Ofcom; and if she will make a statement. [173644]

**The Solicitor-General:** The matter was referred to Ofcom by West Midlands Police and not the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). There were no discussions about the issue between my office and the CPS.

### Criminal Justice Targets

19. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made towards those elements of the Government's criminal justice system targets for which she has responsibility; and if she will make a statement. [173645]

**The Solicitor-General:** I have responsibility for the persistent young offender and victims and witnesses criminal justice targets. The PYO pledge was to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders from 142 days to 71 days. The average time for the quarter to September 2007 was 62 days. In the year to June 2007, in 59.7 per cent. cases, victims and witnesses were satisfied with the handling of matters by the police and other criminal justice agencies. This is on course to meet the 60.1 per cent. target by the end of March 2008.

### Trans-national Bribery

20. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases of trans-national bribery are under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office. [173646]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Serious Fraud Office is currently investigating 11 cases where there are allegations of trans-national bribery, as well as fraud.

It is not possible for operational reasons to give specific details on these cases but they include an investigation into Energy Financing Team Ltd in Bosnia, an investigation into Kellog Brown and Root in connection with Nigeria and a number of other countries, an investigation into the construction of the Unesco-financed Bibliotecha Alexandria in Egypt and an investigation into reinsurance involving the National Insurance Institute in Costa Rica.

A number of other cases are also currently being considered for investigation in the vetting process.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Church Appointments

11. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what representations the Church Commissioners have received on the Prime Minister's proposal to change the role that Ministers and civil servants play in relation to some Church appointments. [173658]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** Following the Government's Green Paper, the archbishops issued a consultation paper on Crown appointments in the Church in October. In light of the views expressed in the consultation period, which ended on 7 December, the archbishops will shortly decide what proposals to put to General Synod in February.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Crime: Internet

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the police and *(b)* Ministerial colleagues on the establishment of a police central e-crime unit. [167104]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have regular meetings with the police and ministerial colleagues on a range of issues, including fraud and e-crime.

On 17 October 2007, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Darling), announced that funding would be made available through the comprehensive spending review for the establishment of a National Fraud Reporting Centre.

The Home Office is currently considering proposals to improve the handling of e-crime.

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to protect people from domestic violence, since 1997. [170976]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: Since 1997, the Government have been working to: increase the early identification of (and intervention with) victims of domestic violence; ensure that effective advice and support is provided to victims of domestic violence; improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence; and to manage perpetrators to reduce risk.

These aims have been underpinned by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 and an annual cross-Government National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence (since 2005) to progress this work both nationally and locally.

The following table sets out some of the key steps that the Government have taken to tackle domestic violence. Main themes have included:

> (i) strengthening the criminal justice response to domestic violence through the development and expansion of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts to 64 systems in England and Wales, ensuring that domestic violence coordinators are located in every police force, probation and Crown Prosecution Service area, and rolling out perpetrator programmes to all probation areas; and
>
> (ii) improving the safety of identified high risk victims of domestic violence through the development of Independent Domestic Violence Adviser services and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, with over 100 areas currently supported.

This work has had a significant impact: according to the British Crime Survey the prevalence of domestic violence has fallen by 59 per cent. between 1995 and 2006-07.

*Summary of steps the Government have undertaken to protect people from domestic violence since 1997*

| | *Key steps* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | Women Ministers launch 'Living Without Fear', a national strategic approach to violence against women |
| 2002 | Order made under Housing Act 1996 to extend priority need for accommodation to people vulnerable because they have fled their home because of violence |

*Summary of steps the Government have undertaken to protect people from domestic violence since 1997*

| | Key steps |
|---|---|
| 2002 | Rape Action Plan published |
| 2003 | Home Office launch Safety and Justice Consultation Paper |
| 2003 | Launch of 24 hour National Domestic Violence free phone helpline, run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge |
| 2003 | Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 |
| 2003 | Sexual Offences Act 2003 |
| 2003-04 | Development of 14 Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) |
| 2003-06 | Gender equality public service agreement (PSA) to include domestic violence measure |
| 2004 | National awareness raising campaign launched for domestic violence |
| 2004 | Domestic Violence, Crime & Victims Act 2004 |
| 2004 | United Nations Resolution on Honour Killings, jointly presented by UK and Turkey |
| 2004 | Costs of domestic violence research published |
| 2005 | March is named National Domestic Violence Month |
| 2005 | Official launch of Forced Marriage Unit |
| 2005 | National Report and National Delivery Plan launched |
| 2005 | Launch of Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence |
| 2005 | Domestic Abuse Strategy for Wales launched |
| 2005 | Development of Northern Ireland 24 hour free phone Domestic Violence Helpline, open to anyone affected by domestic violence |
| 2005-06 | 25 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts announced to be established and operating by the end of 2005-06 |
| 2005-06 | 100 Independent Domestic Violence Advisors trained; 70 trained in 2006-07 |
| 2005 | 'Tackling Violence At Home' strategy for domestic violence and abuse launched in Northern Ireland |
| 2006 | Over 400 refuges in the UK |
| 2005-06 | Consultation on creation of specific offence of forced marriage; responses have been published |
| 2006-08 | Gender Equality PSA to include domestic violence measure |
| 2006-07 | First national conference for Domestic Violence Co-ordinators held |
| 2006-07 | Progress Report on National Delivery Plan published |
| 2006-07 | Homicide Review guidance published for consultation |
| 2006/07 | Publication of health professionals' domestic violence handbook |
| 2006-07 | Development and funding of more Sexual Assault Referral Centres |
| 2006-07 | Funding of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors |
| 2006-07 | Selection of further Specialist Domestic Violence Court systems, bringing total supported by national Programme to 64 |
| 2006 | Northern Ireland join the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence |
| 2006 | Publication and distribution of workplace Guidance on Domestic Violence to Northern Ireland employers |
| 2006 | Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPS) launch its policy on prosecution of cases of domestic violence |
| 2006-07 | Pilot MARAC in the Antrim area, Northern Ireland, continuing following evaluation |
| 2007-08 | Support given to over 100 areas to enable the MARAC model to be rolled out |
| 2007-08 | Pilot of sanctuary scheme in the Ballymena/ Antrim area, Northern Ireland |

## Genetics: Databases

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people whose DNA is held on the national database that have committed no offence are *(a)* male and *(b)* female; and if she will make a statement. [162218]

**Meg Hillier:** On 31 October 2007, there were an estimated 4,188,033 individuals with a DNA profile retained on the National DNA Database (NDNAD). This includes approximately 22,700 persons who had provided a DNA profile voluntarily. Of the 4.18 million persons, 3,938,156 persons were sampled by police forces in England and Wales. These figures were obtained from the NDNAD.

Data on arrest and criminal histories are not held on the NDNAD, but are held on the Police National Computer (PNC). Such data are not available routinely at present, but the National Policing Improvement Agency which has responsibility for the delivery of NDNAD services is working towards being able to provide such data regularly from the NDNAD and PNC.

Data obtained from the PNC on 31 October indicate that 3,637,163 (of the 3,938,156) persons had a record retained on PNC. Of these, 3,117,942 persons had a conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand[1] recorded on the PNC (79 per cent. of persons on the NDNAD sampled by forces in England and Wales); and 519,221 persons (13 per cent. of persons on the NDNAD sampled by forces in England and Wales) had no current conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on PNC. The latter figure comprises some persons who may have had a caution or conviction record removed from PNC after five to 10 years in accordance with the Rules for Criminal Record Weeding (which applied prior to April 2006); persons who have been charged and acquitted or proceedings discontinued; persons who have been charged with a recordable offence and proceedings are ongoing; and persons who have been arrested but no further action was taken against them. The PNC records for the other 300,993 persons (8 per cent. of persons on the NDNAD) had been removed from the PNC for various reasons, for example, their conviction and caution records had been weeded after five-10 years, the person had been acquitted or proceedings were discontinued. No breakdown is available of the number of males and females who have a profile on the NDNAD but who have not been convicted, cautioned etc. These data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

[1] Cautions, final warnings and reprimands are sanctions administered to a person who admits to having committed a criminal offence which could have led to prosecution.

## Passports

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of passports were renewed more than a year before the expiry date in the latest period for which figures are available. [171876]

**Meg Hillier:** This question can only be answered in relation to adult renewal passports, the required data for child renewal passports is not currently available.

For all adult passports renewed during the 2006 calendar year a proportion of 3.1 per cent. were renewed more than 12 months prior to expiry.

## Prosecutions: Licensing

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were in Easington constituency for the illegal sale of alcohol from off licence premises in each year since 2000. [172766]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data on prosecutions and convictions held by the Ministry of Justice are not broken down by constituency area. The data show that no prosecutions took place in Easington local criminal justice area or North Durham (which Easington was amalgamated into in 2002), for the illegal sale of alcohol in off-licence premises from 2000-06.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* apprenticeships, *(b)* level two apprenticeships and *(c)* advanced apprenticeships there are likely to be in 2010-11, broken down by age group (i) 16 to 18, (ii) 19 to 25 and (iii) over 25-year-olds. [173558]

**Mr. Lammy:** Planned apprenticeship volumes by academic year to 2010/11 were published in the Learning and Skills Council's Statement of Priorities on 16 November 2007, available at http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-statementofpriorities-nov07.pdf. The breakdown is available by 16 to 18 and 19+ only, and not by level.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disk; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168277]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167226]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department currently shares software with the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The following list provides the names of manufacturers providing software applications to Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

1E
ActiveState Software Inc
ActiveXperts Software BV
Acuity Risk Management LLP
Acuma Software Limited
Adobe Systems
Agresso Limited
Art Technology Group Inc.
Aventail
BEA Systems Inc.
Business Objects
CASE Technologies
Check Point Software Technologies Limited
Cisco Systems Inc.
Citrix Systems Inc.
Clearswift Limited
CommVault
CA
Dell Inc.
Diskeeper Corporation
Double-Take Software
EMC Corporation
Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc.
EVault
Ixia
INPHASE Software Limited
Intel Corporation Intercede Limited
Internet Security Systems Inc.
JAM Software
JZero Solutions
Kainos Software Limited
Mantix Systems Limited
McAfee Inc.
MEGA
Meridio
Microsoft Corporation
MidlandHR
Network Appliance Inc.
PTM EDV-Systeme GmbH
QAS Limited
QLogic Corporation
Qube Global Software
Quest Software Inc.
RealVNC Limited
Research In Motion Limited
RSA Security Inc.
SafeNet Inc.
Semio
Sherpa Software
Softerra Limited
Sophos Plc
Source Code Technology Holdings Inc.
SPSS Inc.
Sun Microsystems Inc.
Symantec Corporation
TANDBERG
Telelogic AB
Trend Micro
VMWare Inc.
Websense Inc.
WinZip International LLC

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibits the assignment of debt. [172316]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department's standard terms and conditions for the purchase of goods and services do not specifically mention the prohibition of the assignment of debt. They do include a clause stating that the benefit and burden of the contract may not be assigned or sub-contracted in whole or in part by the contractor without the prior written consent of the Department.

## WALES

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each Civil Service grade are employed by his Department. [172734]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office published the numbers of staff by grade in its departmental annual report, which is available online at www.walesoffice.gov.uk or in the House Library.

Figures for the number of women in each grade are also provided.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts: Finance

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's public service agreement targets are for arts inclusion following the comprehensive spending review settlement. [168865]

**James Purnell:** HM Treasury announced in the comprehensive spending review that from April 2008 there would be 30 public service agreements (PSAs) setting out priority outcomes for the Government as a whole. The percentage of people who participate in culture and sport is one of the indicators for PSA21: Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities.

My Department has also published its new Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSO), the first of which is Opportunity: encourage more widespread enjoyment of culture, media and sport. Detailed indicators for this DSO are currently being developed and will be published in due course.

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173505]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department currently uses incandescent light bulbs for festive decorations on three Christmas trees inside its buildings. However in line with the Department's policy to use energy efficient light fittings, we will purchase LED lights when we need to replace them.

The Department does not have any external festive decorations.

### Sports: Schools

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department are taking to encourage school students to participate in competitive sport. [173460]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Increasing inter and intra-school sporting opportunities is a key component of the National School Sport Strategy, which is delivered jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The 2006-07 School Sport Survey showed that:

98 per cent. of schools held a competitive sports day,

58 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition, and

35 per cent. of all pupils were involved in inter-school competition.

Earlier this year, the Prime Minister announced extra funding to extend the number of Competition Managers to at least 225 by the beginning of 2009. Competition Managers will work with Governing Bodies and School Sport Associations to create a stronger framework for competitive sport and increase the amount of competitive sport in primary and secondary schools.

As part of this work, our Secretary of State has chaired two summits with Governing Bodies and School Sport Associations to discuss the development of world class junior competition frameworks in their sports.

In addition, we are introducing a new National School Sport Week, championed by Dame Kelly Holmes, to encourage all schools to run sports days and tournaments. This will build on the success of the UK School Games and its impact on motivating young people to take part in competitive sport.

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by her Office. [168093]

**Tessa Jowell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 442W.

### Olympic Delivery Authority: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the Olympic Delivery Authority on reducing the carbon footprint of the 2012 Olympic Games. [172013]

**Tessa Jowell:** On 26 November, the Olympic Board, on behalf of the ODA and other Olympic partners, launched the London 2012 Sustainability Plan—Towards a One Planet 2012, which confirmed our commitment to minimise carbon emissions for the 2012 Games including the creation of a new decentralised energy supply infrastructure; designing buildings and parkland to minimise energy use; procurement of low carbon vehicles for the official fleet; and maximising the use of public transport to reach venues.

The ODA also set out their specific proposals on minimising carbon emissions as part of their detailed Sustainable Development Strategy published in January 2007.

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the difference is in the carbon footprint of the original plans for portable facilities for the Olympic Games and the proposed single permanent venue at ExCel. [172014]

**Tessa Jowell:** Decisions on temporary and portable facilities for the 2012 Games have yet to be finalised. As part of the decision-making process there will be a detailed analysis of the carbon footprint of the options.

On 26 November, the Olympic Board launched the London 2012 Sustainability Plan—Towards a One Planet 2012, which confirmed our commitment to minimise carbon emissions for the 2012 Games.

### Olympic Games 2012: Finance

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library copies of all monthly financial updates against the respective budgets of the *(a)* London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and *(b)* Olympic Delivery Authority. [172966]

**Tessa Jowell:** As announced on 10 December, I will provide a detailed account of progress across the Olympic programme when the first Olympic annual report is produced in the new year. Following this, I will make further reports to Parliament on a six monthly basis.

The Olympic Board will receive monthly updates.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Elections

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many performance indicators the Electoral Commission plans to set for local authorities. [173473]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it is currently developing a performance standards framework for Electoral Registration Officers, Returning Officers and Referendum Counting Officers, arising from the powers given to it under section 67 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Although the Commission has yet to determine the final number of performance indicators, it aims to ensure that the performance framework is focused and proportionate, and does not represent an unjustified burden. The Commission is currently consulting with stakeholders and expects to publish the final performance standards by the end of 2008.

### Electoral Register

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what research the Commission has commissioned from NOP into electoral registration; and what the cost was of such research. [173484]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that GfK NOP Ltd. was commissioned to conduct research into the "Completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers in Greater London". The project was carried out between April and September 2007 and cost £78,796 +VAT. The findings of the project were published in October 2007 on the Commission's website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

In addition, NOP was commissioned in 2007 to conduct two public opinion research projects into the general experience of voting in Wales and Scotland; only a small component of which concerned voter registration. The combined cost was £52,357 + VAT.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Demonstrations: Belfast

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken by the Parades Commission in relation to offensive and blasphemous placards displayed at the Gay Pride march in Belfast in August. [172719]

**Paul Goggins:** I have been advised by the Parades Commission that it has written to the parade organiser in relation to alleged breaches of its code of conduct at the Belfast Pride parade on 4 August 2007, and has sought a meeting to discuss the matter further.

The Commission is committed to use all of the information at its disposal, including reports from police, participants, authorised officers and monitors, to inform its review of any such parade in the future.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each Civil Service grade are employed by his Department. [172729]

**Mr. Woodward:** As at 6 December 2007, the gender breakdown within the Northern Ireland Office is shown in the following table.

| *Grade* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| SCS | 32 | 18 | 50 |
| A | 111 | 91 | 202 |
| B1 | 130 | 150 | 280 |
| B2 | 132 | 134 | 266 |
| C | 144 | 328 | 472 |
| D1 | 140 | 460 | 600 |
| D2 | 134 | 147 | 281 |
| Industrial | 12 | 19 | 31 |
| | | | 2,182 |

## Police Service of Northern Ireland: Secondment

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of police forces in Great Britain were *(a)* seconded and *(b)* transferred to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each year since 2005, broken down by (i) rank and (ii) sex. [170490]

**Paul Goggins:** I am advised by PSNI that, as of 5 December, the following tables show the number of members of police forces in Great Britain who have been seconded or transferred to PSNI in each year since 2005.

*(a) Secondments*

| | *Rank* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | Superintendent | 1 |
| 2006 | Superintendent | 2 |
| | Chief Inspector | 2 |
| 2007 | Superintendent | 1 |
| | Chief Inspector | 2 |
| | Inspector | 1 |
| | Sergeant | 3 |
| | Constable | 7 |
| | Student Officer | 1 |

| | *Gender* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | Male | 1 |
| 2006 | Male | 3 |
| | Female | 1 |
| 2007 | Male | 10 |
| | Female | 5 |

*(b) Transfers*

| | *Rank* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | Superintendent | 1 |
| | Chief Inspector | 3 |
| | Inspector | 1 |
| | Sergeant | 2 |
| 2006 | Assistant Chief Constable | 1 |
| | Chief Superintendent | 1 |
| | Inspector | 4 |
| | Sergeant | 12 |
| | Constable | 3 |
| 2007 | Inspector | 6 |
| | Sergeant | 8 |
| | Constable | 2 |

| | *Gender* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | Male | 5 |
| | Female | 2 |
| 2006 | Male | 20 |
| | Female | 1 |
| 2007 | Male | 12 |
| | Female | 4 |

## Prisoners: Literacy

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the assessed level of numeracy and literacy rates were amongst prisoners in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [170464]

**Paul Goggins:** The following tables provide a breakdown of the assessed levels of numeracy and literacy rates among prisoners in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. The figures are for each of the financial years listed and for the current year up to November 30. It is expected that literacy and numeracy assessments for the full year 2007-08 will reach approximately 1,400.

*Numeracy*

| | *Total number of assessments* | *Below entry level* | *Entry Level 1* | *Entry Level 2* | *Entry Level 3* | *Level 1 + above* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 1,403 | 85 | 130 | 317 | 509 | 362 |
| April 2004 to March 2005 | 1,423 | 110 | 118 | 331 | 475 | 389 |
| April 2005 to March 2006 | 1,486 | 112 | 131 | 352 | 513 | 378 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 1,512 | 118 | 73 | 273 | 588 | 460 |
| April 2007 to 20 November 2007 | 828 | 79 | 37 | 177 | 301 | 234 |

*Literacy*

| | *Total number of assessments* | *Below entry level* | *Entry Level 1* | *Entry Level 2* | *Entry Level 3* | *Level 1 + above* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 1,404 | 57 | 65 | 237 | 581 | 464 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 1,421 | 76 | 97 | 236 | 523 | 489 |
| April 2003 to March 2004 | 1,480 | 90 | 75 | 235 | 590 | 490 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 1,508 | 116 | 49 | 202 | 621 | 520 |
| April 2007 to 20 November 2007 | 833 | 77 | 29 | 115 | 329 | 283 |

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Construction: Skilled Workers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that the National Skills Academy for Construction will create by 2016. [173344]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The National Skills Academy for Construction (NSAfC) has been established to provide sector specific training not to create jobs. However, the NSAfC estimate that those joining the industry through apprenticeships and adult traineeships via the National Skills Academy for Construction projects could exceed 2,500 over the next nine years. In addition to newcomers to the industry, the NSAfC will be focusing on upskilling existing construction sector employees.

### Internet: Standards

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions Ministers and officials from his Department have had with internet service providers on the adoption of minimum standards of security offered to consumers; and if he will make a statement. [172393]

**Mr. Timms:** Officials in the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are in regular contact with the internet service providers and bodies associated with the industry on a range of consumer issues. These issues include what actions the industry can take to improve the standard of security that a consumer may expect from a service provider. These discussions are also addressing other consumer issues relating to access to harmful content.

### Partnership at Work Fund Programme

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department commissioned any external assessment of applications for funding under the Partnership at Work Fund programme. [173166]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department commissioned the Industrial Relations Research Unit at the University of Warwick to undertake an evaluation of the Partnership Fund. This was published in 2003 as Employment Relations Research Series No. 17.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to his Department of administering the Partnership at Work Fund programme was in each year since 1999. [173167]

**Mr. McFadden:** This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who was responsible for the decision to instruct Post Office Ltd. to postpone the post office network change programme pending the May 2008 municipal and local authority elections in England and Wales. [173252]

**Mr. McFadden:** Cabinet Office guidelines clearly state that consultations should not be launched, and decisions relating to them announced, in an election period. Successive Administrations of both parties have observed these arrangements for many years.

### Post Offices: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the timetable is for the Post Office to finalise assessments of sub-post offices in Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [173421]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 12 December 2007]*: Post Office Ltd. expects that the consultation on the area plan proposals for post office closures and new outreach services in Lancashire and Fylde with Southport will commence 22 January 2008 and conclude 3 March 2008. I understand that Post Office Ltd. expects to announce final decisions in early April 2008.

### Post Offices: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the timetable is for the Post Office to finalise assessments for sub-post offices in Tamworth constituency. [173262]

**Mr. McFadden:** Post Office Ltd. expects that the consultation on the area plan proposals for post office closures and new outreach services in Tamworth will commence 1 April 2008 and conclude 9 June 2008. I understand that Post Office Ltd. expects to announce final decisions in early July 2008.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Russia: Foreign Relations

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to discuss UK-Russia relations with President Putin. [172047]

**The Prime Minister:** It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of Taliban members who have surrendered then subsequently returned to anti-coalition forces. [172153]

**Des Browne:** All insurgents who surrender either to the Afghan National Security Forces or the International Security Assistance Force are held in the custody of the Afghan authorities. No information is held on whether any detainees who may be released by the Afghan Government subsequently rejoin the insurgency.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the recent military operations in Musa Qaleh. [173959]

**Des Browne:** The recent operation by the government of Afghanistan to reassert its authority over Musa Qaleh, which was fully supported by coalition forces, has so far proceeded according to plan. Establishing security in that area will enable reconstruction and economic development, which will benefit all the local population.

### Armed Forces: Catering

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost was of providing a 24-hour ration pack in 2006-07. [172032]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The average cost of a 24-hour ration pack in 2006-07 was £6.57.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Ministry of Defence accommodation is deemed uninhabitable. [171002]

**Derek Twigg:** Accommodation can be uninhabitable for various reasons, such as it is awaiting demolition or is undergoing major repair, modernisation or upgrade work.

All currently occupied service accommodation is of a habitable standard. It is not possible to separately identify uninhabitable accommodation without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Defence Aviation Repair Agency: Gosport

**Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the Defence Aviation Repair Agency at Fleetlands, Gosport. [173214]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* In my written ministerial statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 74WS, I confirmed that work was continuing to progress the sale option for DARA's rotary wing and components businesses. I also announced that Vector Aerospace was selected as the preferred bidder and that if sale did not show MOD best value for defence then these business units would form part of a new defence support organisation being created by merging DARA's remaining businesses with ABRO.

No decision has yet been taken as to whether the sale offers and delivers the best overall value for defence and provides a better long-term future for these businesses and their employees. We recognise the important role that all employees and industry play in supporting the armed forces. Negotiations are continuing with Vector Aerospace and we will arrive at a final decision as soon as possible to remove uncertainty for DARA's rotary and components staff.

### Defence Equipment and Support Organisation: Finance

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation on equipment programmes in each of the last three years. [173408]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The information requested is provided in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 10,590 |
| 2005-06 | 10,833 |
| 2006-07 | 12,130 |

The figures include expenditure on equipment additions, equipment support (including stock consumption and post design services), PFI service charges and IT and telecommunications.

### Defence: Procurement

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons contract amendments relating to equipment acquisition programmes are proposed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [171826]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Contract amendments relating to equipment acquisition programmes are proposed where it is appropriate to meet the Department's business needs and are agreed between the parties to the contract, or where there are legislative changes.

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what circumstances he would require would-be contractors to spend their own or third party funds on advancing the development of new equipment for the armed forces; how this requirement is conveyed to contractors; and if he will make a statement. [171828]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) conveys its future industrial and technological requirements to potential contractors via the Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS) and the Defence Technology Strategy (DTS), respectively.

DIS and DTS bring clarity to the MOD's research and development (R and D) priorities, and provide a strategic view of the UK's defence R and D requirements for up to the next 10 years. They give industry a better understanding of where the MOD will invest its limited R and D budget, and thereby encourage industry to increase its investment in areas that are of importance to us. Copies of these strategies are available in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons post design services contracts as they relate to equipment acquisition programmes are awarded by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [171830]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As part of the Department's commercial transformation, there has been a shift from traditional support arrangements with separate contracts for post design services, spares and maintenance, to integrated, innovative output-based support solutions. These are designed to optimise levels of service through life and to achieve better value for money.

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 959-60W, on defence: procurement, what proportion of offer prices quoted by contractors on *(a)* equipment programmes worth more than £100 million and *(b)* other programmes were within (i) 10 per cent., (ii) six per cent. and (iii) two per cent. of the corresponding expenditure figure advertised as a guide to suppliers within the MoD Defence Contractors Bulletin value banding information or elsewhere by his Department in the last period for which figures are available; what proportion of offer prices were greater than the guide figures; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure price competitiveness in the procurement process. [172003]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The MOD uses competition where it can to ensure price competitiveness. Where competition is not a valid option, the MOD uses its well established non-competitive pricing arrangements to agree a fair and reasonable price for a contract.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172321]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The standard terms and conditions used by the MOD in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector do not prohibit the assignment of debt owed by the private sector.

## Fisheries: Navy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 41W, on fisheries: Navy, for what reasons there were no river class offshore patrol vessels in operation on *(a)* 27 April 2007, *(b)* 28 April 2007 and *(c)* 11 October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [171724]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There were no river class patrol vessels patrolling on 27 and 28 April 2007 as all three were on stand off activities (i.e. periods off task designated for activities such as handovers, stores replenishment and crew rest and recreation). On 11 October 2007 members of the crews of HMS Mersey and HMS Severn were engaged on naval training and HMS Tyne was de-ammunitioning prior to a docking period. Fishery protection duties were undertaken by Hunt Class vessels on each of the three days specified.

## Helicopters: Procurement

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment his Department made of the capability of the EADS Eurocopter UH-145 to fulfil the light utility role prior to awarding the Future Lynx contract to Finmeccanica; and if he will make a statement; [172537]

(2) what assessment his Department made of the capability of the US Sikorsky Seahawk to fulfil aspects of the capability role identified in the Future Rotorcraft Capability programme prior to awarding the Future Lynx contract to Finmeccanica; and if he will make a statement; [172538]

(3) whether his Department considered procuring different helicopter types to fulfil separately the different capability requirements detailed in the Future Rotorcraft Capability programme prior to awarding the Future Lynx contract to Finmeccanica; and if he will make a statement; [172539]

(4) what alternatives to the Future Lynx helicopter his Department considered to fulfil the Battlefield Light Utility Helicopter requirement before awarding the contract; and what the average cost per helicopter was of each contract considered. [172589]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Future Rotorcraft Capability (FRC) programme explored the capabilities of many different helicopter types from all major western helicopter manufacturers, including products from EADS Eurocopter and Sikorsky. It also explored whether certain helicopter types could contribute to more than one area of our overall capability need, thus helping reduce through-life costs, though the wide spectrum of tasks required of our helicopter fleet means that no single type is able to meet the required capability in full.

The through-life military capability, cost and risk of various mixes of different helicopter types was assessed. These mixes included options that used different aircraft types to deliver the Land and Maritime capabilities now contracted to be provided by Future Lynx.

This analysis concluded that, alongside other investments arising from the FRC programme, the delivery of the British Army's Battlefield Reconnaissance Helicopter (BRH) and the Royal Navy's Surface Combatant Maritime Rotorcraft (SCMR) through a single helicopter type (Future Lynx) provided the best combination of through-life military capability, cost and risk.

I am withholding the information requested on our internal assessments of the average cost per helicopter as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

## Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fuel with additives is being used for light A class, B class wheeled and C class platform vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan; who is contracted to supply such fuel; what effect use of this fuel has had on fuel costs; how many engine breakdowns and write-offs have occurred attributed to use of such fuel in 2007; and what the cost of repairs and replacements arising has been. [171773]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** In Iraq, Class A, B and C vehicles are fuelled using diesel (F-54) with no additives during the winter months. In the summer a 50/50 blend of diesel and aviation fuel (F-34) known as F-65 together with a lubricant additive, Lubrizol 539M, is used. The fuels are obtained from the US military in Kuwait under the UK-US Fuel Exchange agreement, with logistic support provided by two contractors. F-65 is approximately 11 per cent. more expensive than plain diesel.

In Afghanistan, vehicles are operated in accordance with the NATO single fuel policy where this is technically feasible. The fuel is aviation fuel (F-34) (which has already been treated with AL41 Icing Inhibitor and AL61 Lubricity Improver) to which Lubrizol 539M is also added, the resulting mixture being referred to as F-63. A number of vehicle types are being fuelled with F-54 at certain locations for operational reasons, these include engineering plant, Warrior and CVR(T) vehicles. These fuels are provided under a NATO contract with a civilian contractor. In Afghanistan, F-34 is approximately two per cent. more expensive than F-54.

No breakdowns have been apportioned to the use of any of these fuel types. During the transition from diesel to F-65 or F-63 use, there can be a transient increase in fuel filter use as the F-34 component has a cleansing effect on the engine.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on repairing *(a)* armoured vehicles, *(b)* aircraft, *(c)* helicopters and *(d)* weapons systems damaged in use in Iraq and Afghanistan in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [171896]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for the RAF to resume daytime flights on the Jasper airbridge in Iraq. [172601]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: RAF logistics flights into and around Iraq are undertaken in a way that strikes the correct balance between minimising risks and meeting operational requirements. Generally this means that flights are undertaken during the hours of darkness, but the most appropriate scheduling of each flight is considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Iraq: Reconstruction

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's personnel were assigned to the British provincial reconstruction team in *(a)* Basra and *(b)* Lashkar Gah in each year since 2005; what contact those personnel have with local people on reconstruction issues; and if he will make a statement. [170823]

**Des Browne:** The Ministry of Defence attached two UK Service personnel to the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Basra when it was established in 2006. This has recently been reduced to one.

Since 2005, four UK service personnel have been attached to the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Lashkar Gar. In addition, a further contingent is assigned to the Security Sector Reform cell, which has gradually grown to its present size of 15 personnel.

The Provincial Reconstruction Teams in both Basra and Lashkar Gar pursue a comprehensive approach to reconstruction. This includes: making regular contact with local Iraqis and Afghans through the mentoring of the Iraqi and Afghan National Security Forces and Judiciary; attendance, as appropriate, at shuras; meeting with representatives of the Governments of Iraq and Afghanistan at regional, provincial and district levels; and routine patrolling.

## Nuclear Submarines

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will introduce safeguards to ensure that UK submarine commanders are unable to launch a nuclear attack on their own initiative under any circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [172814]

**Des Browne:** I am satisfied that all the necessary safeguards are in place.

## Patrol Craft

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what purposes he used each category of River Class offshore patrol vessels in each year since 1997; for how many patrol days in each category; and if he will make a statement. [168221]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels were commissioned in 2003 and 2004. The number of patrol days on fishery protection for each River Class Vessel were as follows:

| | *Vessel* | *Days* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | Tyne | 22 |
| 2003-04 | Tyne | 222 |
| | Severn | 112 |
| | Mersey | 11 |
| 2004-05 | Tyne | 192 |
| | Severn | 204 |
| | Mersey | 230 |
| 2005-06 | Tyne | 193 |
| | Severn | 225 |
| | Mersey | 218 |
| 2006-07 | Tyne | 225 |
| | Severn | 185 |
| | Mersey | 208 |

For the remaining time the vessels were used for standoffs (periods off task for activities such as handovers, stores replenishment, and rest and recreation for the crew), training, maintenance, passage and visits, and unused days owned by VT Group plc.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what maximum number of patrol days each River Class offshore patrol vessel may undertake *(a)* operationally and *(b)* under the terms of his Department's (i) agreement with DEFRA and (ii) the contract with Vosper Thornycroft. [168244]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Royal Navy Plan specifies that each River Class vessel undertakes up to 230 Patrol Days each year depending on the requirement of the MOD/DEFRA contract. Remaining days are taken up by standoff (ie periods off task for activities such as handovers, stores replenishment and crew rest and recreation); training; passage and visits, and 45 days, including 25 for maintenance, which are owned by the VT Group plc, from whom the vessels are, leased.

The current agreement with DEFRA does not specify the type(s) of vessels to be used but does state the proportion of total patrol days to be provided by Offshore Patrol Vessels. In 2007-08 800 patrol days are to be provided, of which 560 must be Offshore Patrol Vessel days.

The contract with the VT Group plc does not include a maximum number of patrol days. It specifies that each of the three River Class patrol vessels must be available to the Royal Navy for 320 days per year.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what purposes the River Class offshore patrol vessels have been used in addition to fisheries protection; how many patrol days this has required in each case since the River Class were commissioned; and if he will make a statement; [170908]

(2) for what purposes the River Class offshore patrol vessels will be used in addition to fisheries protection for the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [170909]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The operational focus of the River Class vessels is fishery protection. When not being used for this purpose their time is used for stand-offs, training, passage, visits and maintenance. They must also be available for the VT Group plc 'unused' days (days for which the ships are not contracted and therefore unavailable for any FLEET tasking). They may also be programmed by the Commander in Chief Fleet for other tasks, such as maritime security, in the case of an urgent operational requirement. These cases are likely to be rare. None of these tasks are carried out at the expense of the agreed number of fishery patrol days provided by the Ministry of Defence to DEFRA. There are currently no plans to change the purposes for which River Class vessels are used in the future.

### Puma Helicopters

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for extending the life of the RAF's existing fleet of Puma HC1 helicopters; when the proposed Puma Mk 2 helicopter will come into service; and if he will make a statement. [171012]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence announced in June 2007 the award of a contract to EADS Eurocopter to assess the timescale, cost, performance and risk issues associated with the enhancements of the capability and the extension of the in-service life of the Puma HC1 helicopter until 2022. This assessment will explore issues relating to the upgrade of avionics systems and the replacement of engines and obsolete items. It is scheduled to conclude in 2008 to inform an investment decision to undertake the capability enhancement and life extension programme. It is envisaged that the resultant aircraft would be known as the Puma HC2. In-service duties will not be decided until the main investment decision is made.

### Trident Missiles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what formal procedure has to be followed for submarine commanders to launch Trident missiles; and what role security codes play in that procedure. [173867]

**Des Browne:** I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the merits of the use of pre-movement testing as a strategy for containing bluetongue disease; and if he will make a statement. [172297]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The strategy to manage movements of animals from bluetongue restricted zones has been agreed at EU level and is set out in Regulation 1266/2007. The regime is based around the scientific evidence base, with movement conditions intended to provide appropriate assurance that animals are not infected before moves can be allowed. Pre-movement testing forms an integral part of this regime, but testing must be used in conjunction with other measures to provide appropriate guarantees, due to the nature of bluetongue spread by midges.

These measures include testing during the "vector free period" when temperatures have dropped significantly and midge activity is greatly reduced, or isolating animals in midge-proof buildings before testing. In each case, the aim is to ensure that the animal is safe to move. Guidance on these provisions, and on movement in the vector free period in particular, will be published shortly (the most likely window for such a period if it can be declared is January to March).

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account is taken of *(a)* county boundaries and *(b)* distance from outbreak in determining foot and mouth disease restriction zones; and if he will make a statement. [172296]

**Jonathan Shaw:** EU legislation sets out that a Protection Zone must be imposed for a minimum of 3 km, and a Surveillance Zone for a minimum of 10 km, around each infected premises. Our Protection and Surveillance Zones have always followed these minimum requirements and have not been demarcated by county boundaries.

The wider Restricted Zone originally covered the whole of Great Britain and implemented the national movement ban, but was subsequently reduced in size to be based on administrative and county boundaries, based on a veterinary risk assessment. In addition, the EU export areas have been delineated by administrative and county boundaries on the same basis.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Pay Equality

27. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she will bring forward proposals to address the gender pay gap. [173635]

**Barbara Follett:** For the first time, we have an indicator to narrow the pay gap in the Equalities Public Service Agreement. The Government have announced their decision to extend the right to request flexible working to parents of older children, and we are considering responses to our consultation on the Equality Bill about how the law on equal pay could be strengthened.

### Public Bodies: Appointments

28. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress the Government has made on increasing the proportion of women appointed to public bodies. [173636]

**Barbara Follett:** This Government are committed to equal representation of women and men on our public bodies. Women currently hold 35.5 per cent. of public appointments—an increase from 32 per cent. in 1997. One of my priorities for women is to empower more of them to take up opportunities to participate in public life.

### Women: Political Life

29. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government is taking to increase the representation of women in political life. [173637]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer the hon. member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Ms Clark) today, *Official Report* col. 451.

### Imprisonment

30. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on alternatives to imprisonment for women. [173638]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs. Moon) today, *Official Report* col. 450.

## SCOTLAND

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171308]

**David Cairns:** Chapter 7 of the 'Ministerial Code' sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

### Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170173]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office uses the Scottish Executive's postal facilities for the majority of outgoing mail and reimburses them for usage. In addition, the office uses Royal Mail for the transportation of ministerial papers.

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid in consultancy fees by his Department in each year since its establishment. [171999]

**David Cairns:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer that I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 959W.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the percentage turnover of staff was in his Department in *(a)* the last 12-month period and *(b)* the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169041]

**David Cairns:** All the staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from other Government Departments, normally for a period of two to three years. At the end of this period, staff generally return to their parent Department.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are employed by his Department, broken down by civil service grade. [172693]

**David Cairns:** Information on gender and civil service grade is published in the office's annual report, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171536]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers that I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1769W, and the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1048W.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many illegal immigrants were discovered working for his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [170505]

**David Cairns:** Employment in the civil service is done in accordance with the civil service nationality rules, which are available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/nationality

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Antisocial Behaviour: South West Region

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people comprise the respect squad sent to the West Country; what work the squad will undertake; and whether it plans to visit Torbay. [172837]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: The group of expert practitioners referred to as the respect "squad" comprises of 10 people.

The purpose and work of these expert practitioners is to provide advice and assistance for local partners in relation to complex cases of antisocial behaviour. An expert practitioner intervention has no formal power and is not designed to be an inspection but to provide support where local partners are unable to formulate a clear solution to individual cases, excluding these cases where court action is already underway, or trends in incidents of antisocial behaviour. These nationally recognised expert practitioners have committed to giving some time and advice with the agreement of their employer and taking into account their own work priorities.

In September 2007, two expert practitioners visited and gave advice to local service providers and members of the public in an ongoing case of antisocial behaviour in Torbay, however there is no current outstanding case in this area and no visit to the area is planned.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172324]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department's standard terms and conditions for the purchase of goods and services do not specifically mention the prohibition of the assignment of debt. They do include a clause stating that the benefit and burden of the contract may not be assigned or sub-contracted in whole or in part by the contractor without the prior written consent of the Department.

### Departmental Publicity

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget was of his Department's public communications unit in the latest period for which figures are available; and how this budget was spent. [173204]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: The budget for the Department's public communication unit for 2006-07 was £3.5 million on salaries and £218.4k on operational costs. In addition £120.5k was spent on programmes to improve delivery. During this period the unit responded to: 167,086 telephone enquiries; 53,844 letters and emails from members of the public; and drafted 8,846 responses to letters from MPs and Peers. It also managed 47 public consultations and processed 15,835 consultation responses.

The figures supplied are for the former Department for Education and Skills and the costs include work which is now the responsibility for Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. We would not be able to separate these cost out except at disproportionate cost.

### Literacy

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to increase literacy rates since 1997. [172644]

**Jim Knight:** Improving standards of literacy is one of the Government's top priorities. Since 1997 literacy rates have risen dramatically. The 2007 English results show that 80 per cent. of 11-year-olds reached the expected level or above, an increase of 17 percentage points since 1997; and 74 per cent. of 14-year-olds reached the expected level or above, an increase of 17 percentage points since 1997. At GCSE, 2007 results indicate that 45.7 per cent. of young people achieved 5 A*-C GCSEs including English, an increase of 9.7 percentage points since 1997.

This is as a result of a number of factors, including the challenge and support provided through the Primary and Secondary National Strategies. The National Strategies provide continuing professional development to support schools in raising standards in teaching, support better use of pupil performance data and challenge schools and local authorities to set ambitious targets for their pupils.

The primary framework for teaching literacy has been renewed to reflect the recommendations of the "Rose Review". The renewed framework now puts phonics at the heart of teaching reading and, backed up by the letters and sounds phonics teaching programme, will help to raise attainment levels in all pupils. Next April a revised and updated secondary framework for teaching

English will be published which will place greater focus on pupil assessment and progression.

For those children who struggle most in learning to read, the additional support provided through the national roll-out of the Every Child a Reader programme and the development of an Every Child a Writer programme will help to ensure that we maintain and extend the improvements we have already achieved.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will reply to correspondence from the hon. Member for Billericay dated *(a)* 28 August, *(b)* 15 October and *(c)* 15 November on the subject of Mrs Diana Taylor's attempts to establish contact with her daughter; and if he will provide the legal advice requested. [172609]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: I replied to these letters on 7 December 2007. I apologise for the delay in responding. This matter involved complex policy and legal considerations, requiring discussion between my officials and officials of the General Register Office. My reply explains the provisions of the relevant legislation.

### Pupils: Intimidation

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many deaths of school children have been reported as attributable to bullying in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [173485]

**Kevin Brennan:** This information is not centrally available.

### Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library details of his Department's contracts with suppliers to provide telephone helpline services to the public. [173272]

**Kevin Brennan:** Details of all the telephone helpline services to the public which the Department supports through contracts or grants to suppliers or voluntary sector organisations are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Some of these are included in the following table.

| *Name of helpline* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|
| Connexions Direct | To provide advice and support for 13-19 year olds. |
| Sexwise | To answer queries on sex and relationships from under 18 year-olds and to signpost to local services. Jointly funded by DCSF as part of the teenage pregnancy national campaign |
| FRANK | To provide factual information on drugs to young people and parents and signpost to local services. Jointly funded by DCSF as part of the drug information national campaign. |
| Young Minds | To provide advice for young people on mental health issues, including depression, self harm and eating disorders. |
| Early years and childcare careers helpline | To provide information about careers in the early years and childcare sector and to pass on caller details to local authorities. |
| Parentline Plus | To provide general information and support for parents. An additional contract covers provision of a helpline on bullying. |
| Affordable Childcare | To signpost parents to information about childcare options in their local area. |
| Advisory Centre for Education | To provide advice for parents on educational matters, including special educational needs, exclusions and admissions law. |
| Children's Legal Centre | To provide legal advice for parents on issues around contact and parental responsibility |
| Family Rights Group | To provide advice for parents involved with the social care system. |
| One Parent Families | To provide advice for single parents on topics like benefits, housing and debt. |
| Contact a Family | To provide advice for parents of disabled children. |
| DCSF Public Enquiry Unit | To provide the general public with information on DCSF-related enquiries. |
| Prolog publications helpline | To enable members of the public to order DCSF publications. |

Additionally, the Department has announced that it will provide a grant to support the expansion and development of helpline services provided by the NSPCC.

### Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171336]

**Kevin Brennan:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006—31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average volume of carbon dioxide emissions per passenger, per kilometre for travel by air. [168664]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DEFRA publish estimates of the carbon dioxide emissions per passenger kilometre from aircraft, flying domestic, short haul and long haul routes. These are contained in their report "Guidelines to DEFRA's GHG conversion factors for company reporting", which was updated in June 2007.

The estimated emissions are 158 grammes of carbon dioxide per passenger kilometre for domestic flights; 130 grammes of carbon dioxide per passenger kilometre for short haul flights and 105 grammes of carbon dioxide per passenger kilometre for long haul flights. When using these factors, an uplift of 9 per cent. is then applied to these factors in line with the evidence from the intergovernmental panel on climate change to account for non-direct routes (i.e. not along the straight line between destinations) and delays/circling.

This would effectively increase the factors to apply to a given flight distance to 172 grammes, 142 grammes and 114 grammes of carbon dioxide per passenger kilometre for domestic flights, short haul flights and long haul flights respectively.

These factors are illustrative; actual emissions will vary significantly according to the type of aircraft in use, the load, or cabin class for example.

### Aviation: Standards

**Sir George Young:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evidential basis there is for the Terminal Control South West Airspace Development change reducing delays in flights. [171849]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is not for the Secretary of State for Transport to determine the evidential basis for the NATS' Terminal Control South West Airspace Development to reduce delays in flights.

The NATS Terminal Control South West Airspace Development proposal is currently subject to scrutiny by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), in accordance with their independent Airspace Change Process.

### Compton VHF Omnidirectional Radio

**Sir George Young:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights using the Compton VHF omnidirectional radio (VOR) there were between September 2005 and September 2006; how many of these flights were delayed as a result of congestion in the VOR system; and what the average delay in those flights was. [171850]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This is an operational matter for NATS, the air navigation services provider. I have asked the chief executive of NATS to respond to the question of the right hon. Member directly.

### Departmental Food

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in her departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166643]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** All beef, lamb and dairy products used in the Department's headquarters catering service are sourced within the UK. Bacon originates from Denmark but all other pork products such as chops and joints are obtained from the UK.

### Departmental ICT

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what teleconference facilities are available to *(a)* ministers and *(b)* officials at her Department and how many ministerial meetings took place by teleconference link in her Department in each of the last five years. [170716]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport uses both video conferencing and telephone conference facilities, and all staff are encouraged to use them whenever possible to save time and travelling expenses.

Video conference facilities are available in the Department for Transport (Central) and its agencies, with the exception of the Government Car and Despatch Agency and Vehicle Certification Agency who have no such facilities. They are available to all staff but no record of specific usage is kept.

Telephone conferencing facilities are available to most staff, either through specific units or their individual handsets, but no records are kept of usage.

The information about ministerial meetings that took place by telephone conference or through video conferencing in the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Official Visits

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights to *(a)* Brussels, *(b)* Paris, *(c)* Manchester and *(d)* Leeds were taken by Ministers and officials in her Department in each of the last five years. [170712]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code", the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers".

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in her Department and its predecessors were paid over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167201]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of people in the Department for Transport earning over £100,000 is set out in the following table for each year since 2003. Earnings comprise basic salary plus bonus, where applicable. Figures prior to 2003 are not readily available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.[1]

| | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 8 |
| 2004 | 19 |
| 2005 | 25 |
| 2006 | 44 |
| 2007 | 48 |

The figures for 2006 include the impact of transfer to the Department of the responsibilities of the Strategic Rail Authority, including about 30 senior civil servants, some earning above £100,000.

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[1] *[Official Report, 8 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 3MC.]*

### Departmental Sustainable Development

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system *(a)* for its whole estate and *(b)* in some of its buildings. [171980]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system in a number of its sites. The diverse and geographically remote nature of the departmental building stock makes the achievement of an accredited EMS covering the whole estate an extremely challenging task.

*(b)* The Department has five sites that are covered by an accredited certified EMS and three sites that have a non-certified EMS. In addition 608 sites are working towards attaining an EMS.

### Galileo Satellite Programme

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to oppose the further development of the Galileo Satellite programme without the commissioning of an independent cost benefit analysis; and if she will make a statement. [173382]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The results of a first exploratory evaluation by the Galileo Supervisory Authority of the benefits of Galileo for the EU over the 20 year period to 2027 were published by the Commission in September. This showed substantial additional value for the EU of €50 billion to €60 billion over the period, over and above the benefits of the market created by GPS. The UK minutes statement at the Transport Council on 30 November called on the Commission regularly to review costs, risks and likely revenues as the project progressed.

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to receive from the European Commission a full cost-benefit analysis of the Galileo satellite system. [169792]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* The results of a first exploratory evaluation by the Galileo Supervisory Authority of the benefits of Galileo for the EU over the 20 year period to 2027 were published by the Commission in September. This showed substantial additional value for the EU of €50 billion to €60 billion over the period, over and above the benefits of the market created by GPS. The UK minutes statement at the Transport Council on 30 November 2007 called on the Commission regularly to review costs, risks and likely revenues as the project progressed.

### Government Car and Despatch Agency: Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the Government Car and Despatch Agency's latest customer satisfaction survey results. [173178]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The GCDA customer satisfaction survey is carried out independently by GfK NOP. The results of the survey are published each year in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

### Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will release details of submissions to the public consultation on expanding Heathrow on a regular basis as the consultation progresses. [172713]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* It is anticipated a very large number of responses to the consultation will be received. We will not be in a position to release any information until after the consultation is closed and replies have been collated and analysed. We will make available a summary of responses as soon as we are able to do so and in line with the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Consultation.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take into account the number of responses to the public consultation on the expansion of Heathrow airport in reaching her decision on the project; and if she will make a statement. [172812]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* We expect to make final policy decisions later in 2008, taking account of all the available evidence, including the responses to the consultation.

### Navigation

**Sir George Young:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of whether introduction of precision radio navigation in the UK would make unnecessary the Terminal Control South West Airspace Development change proposal affecting current flights in the vicinity of Compton VHF omnidirectional radio; and whether she plans to introduce precision radio navigation in the UK. [171848]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is not for the Secretary of State for Transport to either assess the impact of the introduction of Precision Area Navigation (P-RNAV) on Airspace Change Proposals or to make any decision on the introduction of Precision Area Navigation in the UK, as these are matters for the Civil Aviation Authority.

### Regional Airports

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for the development of regional airports; and if she will make a statement. [173567]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government's Future of Air Transport White Paper recognised provision of additional regional airport capacity as a key driver to generating growth and investment in the regions, subject to local and wider environmental impacts of air travel being taken into account. Within this context airport operators across the UK were invited to publish master plans outlining their future development proposals.

Many regional airport operators have produced comprehensive master plans and will submit development proposals for planning approval as and when they are ready to do so.

### Roads: Noise

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was (*a*) allocated to and (*b*) spent on mitigating the effects of noise generated by major roads and motorways in each year since 2000; how much has been allocated for this purpose in each year until 2011; if she will place in the Library copies of research commissioned by her Department on identifying, mapping and modelling communities affected by such noise; and if she will make a statement. [173628]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Since 2000 the Highways Agency has been allocated £5 million per annum for noise mitigation measures to deal with the most serious and pressing cases, where practical and cost-effective measures can be provided. These measures are applied to the entire strategic road network including both motorways and trunks roads. This annual allocation for noise mitigation is scheduled to continue until the end of the period covered by CSR07.

The Agency's expenditure in this area is not limited to this figure as noise mitigation measures are included in all the Agency's schemes, where warranted, as it is more cost effective to do this work concurrently with other scheme works. The cost of these works are subsumed within the overall cost of the individual schemes making it impossible to extract the exact figure spent on noise mitigation without incurring disproportionate costs.

In 1999, the Agency commissioned research to develop a system which would help to identify and classify residential areas adjacent to the road network on the basis of their noise exposure. A copy of the report from this research will be placed in the House library. More recent research has been undertaken by DEFRA, as a result of the introduction of the Environmental Noise Directive into UK legislation. This has required major sources of noise to be mapped, including the entire strategic road network. These maps are expected to be published by DEFRA in early 2008.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Conditions of Employment: Mental Health

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-30WS, on mental health and employment, (1) what the role is of the national director of health and work; [169848]

(2) what the terms of reference are of the review into improving the health and employment prospects of people of working age being undertaken by Dame Carol Black. [169947]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Professor Dame Carol Black is the Government's first ever national director for health and work. Dame Carol is a champion for the health, work and well-being strategy which is a partnership between Department for Work and Pensions, Health and Safety Executive and the three Health Departments of Great Britain. In this role she advises Ministers, engages stakeholders, raises awareness of the importance of work to health and helps to change perceptions and behaviour.

In March 2007, jointly with the Department of Health, we commissioned Dame Carol to carry out a review. The terms of reference are

> "To conduct a review of health-related factors that influence working life in Great Britain, and make recommendations."

This review will be crucial to helping us understand the impact of ill health in working age people and how best we can tackle this and support people to stay in work. It will help steer the Government's strategy for the coming years.

As a specific task within the role of national director we have asked Dame Carol to chair a high-level group drawn from business, the medical profession, academia, the third sector, and stakeholder groups to oversee the work on mental health and employment that we announced on 27 November. We are currently developing the detailed terms of reference for this steering group.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-30WS, on mental health and employment, what form a fitnote will take; and how a fitnote will differ from a sicknote. [169946]

**Caroline Flint:** DWP is currently revising the format and content of the medical certificate (FMed3). The Department is working with employers, employees, healthcare professionals and their representative bodies to produce a certificate that will assist and encourage doctors to provide clearer and more helpful fitness for work advice to their patients, especially those with mental health conditions. The revised certificate will also provide employers with the information needed to help facilitate an employee's earlier return to work where possible.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163809]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department for Work and Pensions' current contracts with external consultants, the estimated expenditure on them (including VAT and all disbursements) in the current financial year, their total value and duration are shown in the following table.

*Department for Work and Pensions—contracts with external consultants—November 2007*

| Contract | External consultants | Estimated total value July 2008 (£) | Duration of contract | Estimated total value of contract (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Support to pensions transformation programme | Booz Allen Hamilton | 14,134,745 | 3 February 2003 to 30 November 2007 | 104,680,750 |
| Strategic partner to employment support allowance project | Capgemini | 5,875,000 | 26 March 2007 to 25 March 2011 | 15,275,000 |
| Integrated communications network services - contract transformation plan management | Deloitte | 3,935,977 | 24 November 2005 to 31 March 2009 | 12,038,290 |
| DWP cross towers communications | Deloitte | 5,875,000 | 3 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 | 11,792,357 |
| Support to disability and carers service change programme | PA Consulting | 237,607 | 1 December 2006 to 31 May 2008 | 10,575,000 |
| Professional and consultancy services for the continuous improvement programme | Capgemini | 6,165,120 | 7 July 2007 to 6 July 2008 | 8,220,161 |
| Strategic partner—business and financial controls | PricewaterhouseCoopers | 1,818,248 | 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 | 6,462,500 |
| Initial design support—business process design and re-engineering | Deloitte | 1,343,601 | 20 June 2006 to 28 December 2007 | 4,419,985 |
| Strategic partner to risk assurance division | Grant Thornton | 1,175,000 | 1 June 2005 to 31 May | 3,414,714 |
| Enabling retirement savings programme (design and implementation strand) | Deloitte | 1,175,000 | 8 August 2007 to 31 July 2009 | 2,585,000 |
| HR IS/IT modernisation programme | Capgemini | 1,435,876 | 23 October 2006 to 22 October 2008 | 2,350,000 |
| Support to central payments system programme 2 | Deloitte | 1,374,734 | 1 November 2007 to 31 May 2007 | 1,924,628 |
| DWP leaflet review and analysis | Bang Communications | 634,984 | 29 September 2006 to 31 January 2008 | 1,039,348 |
| DWP mystery shopper | GFK/NOP | 242,581 | 3 January 2006 to 31 January 2009 | 728,479 |
| Support to central payments system programme 1 | PricewaterhouseCoopers | 431,862 | 1 November 2007 to 31 May 2007 | 604,608 |
| Support to performance and planning: clear line of sight | Capgemini | 587,077 | 31 May 2007 to 31 May 2008 | 587,077 |
| Fraud tracking research | GFK/NOP | 273,706 | 30 July 2007 to 31 December 2008 | 581,625 |
| Child maintenance redesign—disregard | Deloitte | 374,736 | 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 | 562,104 |
| Programme management and assurance function to the corporate centre | Capgemini | 497,495 | 1 August 2007 to 18 December 2007 | 497,495 |
| Programme design and programme business change for pensions reform delivery programme | PricewaterhouseCoopers | 449,849 | 10 September 2007 to 31 March 2008 | 449,849 |
| Delivery of financial controls | Deloitte | 240,763 | 13 July 2007 to 30 March 2009 | 436,443 |
| Child maintenance redesign—information and support | Deloitte | 241,332 | 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 | 361,998 |
| Departmental financial advisers | PricewaterhouseCoopers | 352,500 | 1 June 2007 to 30 November 2009 | 352,500 |
| Development of organisational design review and high level people strategy for jobcentre plus | Deloitte | 339,641 | 16 August 2007 to 1 January 2008 | 339,641 |
| DWP media evaluation | Media Measurement | 163,578 | 7 December 2005 to 31 December 2007 | 293,750 |
| Business design and design capability—change directorate | Deloitte | 158,625 | 6 August 2007 to 12 August 2007 | 293,750 |
| Support to the six point plan for government | ATOS | 220,665 | 16 July 2007 to 16 November 2007 | 220,665 |
| DWP public attitudes research | Brahm Ltd | 108,462 | 7 December 2005 to 31 March 2008 | 204,072 |
| HR learning and development improvement programme | PA Consulting | 79,247 | 16 July 2007 to 31 March 2009 | 198,118 |
| Talent management and leadership development | PA Consulting | 177,278 | 28 February 2007 to 30 March 2008 | 177,278 |
| Baselining and tracking research of employability campaign | FDS | 133,931 | 13 June 2007 to 31 January 2008 | 133,931 |
| Talent/leadership development framework for jobcentre plus | PA Consulting | 55,166 | 19 December 2006 to 31 March 2008 | 117,353 |
| Support for working together programme evaluation phase and future strategic design | PKF | 115,150 | 1 September 2007 to 31 March 2008 | 115,150 |

*Department for Work and Pensions—contracts with external consultants—November 2007*

| *Contract* | *External consultants* | *Estimated total value July 2008 (£)* | *Duration of contract* | *Estimated total value of contract (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Designing an accreditation approach | PA Consulting | 115,091 | 25 September 2007 to 31 December 2007 | 115,091 |
| Scheme design support for financial assistance scheme | FS Explorer | 64,168 | 17 September 2007 to 17 July 2008 | 105,774 |
| Pensions reform delivery programme | Tribal Communications | 105,574 | 24 April 2007 to 31 December 2007 | 105,574 |
| Financial support on Remploy/TU negotiations | KPMG | 102,225 | 24 August 2007 to 31 October 2007 | 102,225 |
| Updated DWP leadership and management development approach | PKF | 88,125 | 13 November 2007 to 30 January 2008 | 88,125 |
| Independent verification of CSA improvement plan benefits realisation | Oakleigh | 34,892 | 16 January 2007 to 19 December 2007 | 64,972 |
| Design study for central payments system programme—pensions integration backbone | Accenture | 49,115 | 15 October 2007 to 15 December 2007 | 49,115 |
| Office of Disability Issues—images of disability initiative | Agnes Fletcher | 25,263 | 29 October 2007 to 31 December 2007 | 25,263 |
| Due diligence work | PricewaterhouseCoopers | 23,280 | 29 October 2007 to 30 November 2007 | 23,280 |
| Data warehouse strategy architect | Capgemini | 11,351 | 6 November 2006 to 30 November 2007 | 22,701 |
| Support to pensions transformation programme: rational software | IBM | 18,180 | 23 July 2007 to 31 March 2008 | 18,180 |
| Strategic advice for pensions reform communications campaign | Brahm | 15,686 | 29 October 2007 to 16 November 2007 | 15,686 |
| Total | | 51,077,485 | | 192,769,602 |

## Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of his Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established. [166522]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested on the Department's contact centres and the numbers employed in them is shown in the following tables.

The Department monitors the effectiveness of its contact centres through a scorecard that measures performance across a balanced range of measures. Performance is reported on a monthly basis to the Department's Contact Centre Advisory Team and, each quarter, to the DWP Planning, Performance and Risk Committee. Performance is also monitored by the Contact Centre Performance Working Group whose remit is to: understand and improve performance; identify common performance pressure points, share good practice; and support common performance improvement initiatives.

In addition, each business unit employs a range of performance management measures and tools to monitor the effectiveness of its centres which, for example, include: real time and historic performance measurement; mystery shopping; and the reviewing of the performance of individual agents.

The Department also now reports on the performance of its contact centres to the Contact Council established following Sir David Varney's recommendations in his report 'Service transformation: A better service for citizens and businesses, a better deal for the taxpayer'.

| | *1993-94* | *1994-95* | *1995-96* | *1996-97* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Disability and Carers[1] | | | | | | | | |
| Benefit Enquiry Line | 76.66 | 137.32 | 149.81 | 166.33 | 123.22 | 108.27 | 125.31 | 128.84 |
| DLA/AA Helpline[2] | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Child Support Agency | | | | | | | | [3]— |
| Dudley | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 86.17 |
| Hastings | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 59.89 |
| Falkirk | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 83.57 |
| Plymouth | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 72.46 |
| Birkenhead and Liverpool | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 147.27 |
| Belfast | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 82.20 |

| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Debt Management[6] | | | | | | | | |
| Trafford | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| The Pension Service[7] | | | | | | | | |
| Burnley | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cwmbran | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dundee | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Futures | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| International Pension Centre inc. Medical Benefits | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Leicester | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| London Pension Centre Newcastle | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Motherwell | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Seaham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stockport | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Swansea | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Warrington | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bath | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Birmingham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Blackpool | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dearne Valley | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Goole | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| National Pension Centre | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pension Credit Application Line | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Walsall | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Winter Fuel Cardiff | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Management and Central Support | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate[10] | | | | | | | | |
| Annesley | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bangor | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Blackburn | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bootle | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bridgend | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Caerphilly | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Clydebank | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Coventry | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Derby | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dundee | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Exeter | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Garston | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Grimsby Europarc | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Grimsby Crown House | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Halifax | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lincoln | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Liverpool | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lowestoft | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Marton Mere (Blackpool) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Middlesbrough | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Preston | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Newcastle | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Paisley | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pembroke Dock | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Poole | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sheffield | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Southend | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Taunton | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Telford New Town House | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Telford Plaza | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Torquay | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Group Management and Central Support | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Disability and Carers[1] | | | | | | | |
| Benefit Enquiry Line | 100.28 | 91.04 | 97.59 | 97.23 | 82.19 | 94.15 | 86.85 |
| DLA/AA Helpline[2] | — | 367.40 | 374.05 | 398.45 | 472.23 | 423.00 | 432.76 |
| Child Support Agency | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | [5]— |
| Dudley | 100.77 | 89.59 | 77.94 | 61.71 | 68.03 | 60.91 | 56.44 |
| Hastings | 51.86 | 55.58 | 44.01 | 45.78 | 45.80 | 54.25 | 43.26 |
| Falkirk | 83.94 | 72.81 | 78.41 | 59.30 | 59.56 | 64.65 | 53.72 |
| Plymouth | 72.89 | 82.18 | 63.18 | 68.99 | 64.64 | 60.40 | 60.54 |
| Birkenhead and Liverpool | 154.45 | 125.55 | 246.81 | 214.84 | 225.52 | 188.38 | 167.63 |
| Belfast | 66.20 | 73.80 | 86.63 | 78.39 | 65.08 | 78.84 | 67.99 |
| Debt Management[6] | | | | | | | |
| Trafford | — | — | — | — | 475.13 | 387.37 | 440.63 |
| | | | | | [8]— | [8]— | [9] |
| The Pension Service[7] | | | | | | | |
| Burnley | — | — | — | — | 523.13 | 566.55 | 571.69 |
| Cwmbran | — | — | — | — | 302.13 | 301.35 | 325.96 |
| Dundee | — | — | — | — | 457.24 | 489.20 | 468.80 |
| Futures | — | — | — | — | 341.20 | 317.70 | 326.60 |
| International Pension Centre inc. Medical Benefits | — | — | — | — | 940.83 | 893.42 | 913.15 |
| Leicester | — | — | — | — | 315.60 | 304.88 | 320.62 |
| London Pension Centre Newcastle | — | — | — | — | 550.90 | 591.80 | 580,35 |
| Motherwell | — | — | — | — | 498.69 | 501.23 | 503.75 |
| Seaham | — | — | — | — | 400.93 | 390.69 | 394.32 |
| Stockport | — | — | — | — | 599.07 | 610.57 | 599.08 |
| Swansea | — | — | — | — | 590.26 | 593.08 | 577.20 |
| Warrington | — | — | — | — | 554.93 | 583.19 | 584.79 |
| Bath | — | — | — | — | 402.95 | 346.84 | 177.13 |
| Birmingham | — | — | — | — | 374.56 | 371.38 | 329.12 |
| Blackpool | — | — | — | — | 213.05 | 195.46 | 101.40 |
| Dearne Valley | — | — | — | — | 407.00 | 311.76 | 242.62 |
| Goole | — | — | — | — | — | 46.55 | 0.00 |
| National Pension Centre | — | — | — | — | 946.86 | 819.88 | 744.55 |
| Pension Credit Application Line | — | — | — | — | 8.56 | 6.70 | 4.70 |
| Walsall | — | — | — | — | 268.52 | 279.48 | 273.71 |
| Winter Fuel Cardiff | — | — | — | — | 69.12 | 65.07 | 73.33 |
| Management and Central Support | — | — | — | — | 141.39 | 131.43 | 140.87 |
| Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate[10] | | | | | | | |
| Annesley | — | — | — | — | 110.20 | 130.92 | 133.80 |
| Bangor | — | — | — | — | — | 142.66 | 282.88 |
| Blackburn | — | — | — | 64.17 | 88.78 | 145.94 | 162.11 |
| Bootle | — | — | — | 47.68 | 95.47 | 173.79 | 193.26 |
| Bridgend | — | — | — | 50.96 | 148.06 | 311.50 | 329.04 |
| Caerphilly | — | — | — | — | 101.60 | 103.33 | 123.91 |
| Clydebank | — | — | — | — | 121.90 | 135.54 | 123.17 |
| Coventry | — | — | — | 29.68 | 107.45 | 191.53 | 275.74 |
| Derby | — | — | — | 47.29 | 355.71 | 417.68 | 454.07 |
| Dundee | — | — | — | 189.19 | 175.57 | 279.88 | 282.66 |

| | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Exeter | — | — | — | — | 137.60 | 144.97 | 171.34 |
| Garston | — | — | — | 111.36 | 126.08 | 265.07 | 277.73 |
| Grimsby Europarc | — | — | — | — | 109.00 | 119.14 | 122.46 |
| Grimsby Crown House | — | — | — | 56.1 | 98.03 | 203.81 | 229.87 |
| Halifax | — | — | — | 148.07 | 143.81 | 262.45 | 268.75 |
| Lincoln | — | — | — | 74.65 | 82.45 | 214.01 | 221.18 |
| Liverpool | — | — | — | — | 108.50 | 148.34 | 145.08 |
| Lowestoft | — | — | — | 114.04 | 181.93 | 230.58 | 243.66 |
| Marton Mere (Blackpool) | — | — | — | 124.27 | 158.21 | 204.70 | 211.13 |
| Middlesbrough | — | — | — | 105.59 | 108.04 | 288.36 | 276.77 |
| Preston | — | — | — | — | 46.40 | 43.99 | 50.34 |
| Newcastle | — | — | — | 59.7 | 130.00 | 226.00 | 235.22 |
| Paisley | — | — | — | 80.8 | 175.75 | 193.52 | 198.16 |
| Pembroke Dock | — | — | — | 200.58 | 205.13 | 221.78 | 228.57 |
| Poole | — | — | — | 84.76 | 100.88 | 163.99 | 173.35 |
| Sheffield | — | — | — | 17.86 | 72.70 | 129.28 | 136.71 |
| Southend | — | — | — | — | 103.20 | 123.35 | 154.59 |
| Taunton | — | — | — | 27.69 | 51.98 | 141.10 | 161.88 |
| Telford New Town House | — | — | — | 33.5 | 55.23 | 176.67 | 187.11 |
| Telford Plaza | — | — | — | — | 138.20 | 141.32 | 144.13 |
| Torquay | — | — | — | 68.68 | 146.57 | 207.93 | 209.20 |
| Group Management and Central Support | — | — | — | — | 39.56 | 93.11 | 112.21 |

[1] Staff figures as at April each year includes centre managers and support staff.
[2] Staff figures not available prior to April 2002 as not retained.
[3] CSA staff figures available from August 2001.
[4] Staff figures as at 20 March includes all telephony staff.
[5] 2007-08 figures as at October 2007.
[6] Staff figures as at April each year includes centre managers and support staff.
[7] Management and central support staff figures unable to split between centres. Figures provided separately.
[8] Staff figures as at 31 March.
[9] 2007-08 figures as at October 2007.
[10] Group Management and Central support staff figures provided separately and Staff figures as at 1 April each year.

## Employment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of vacancies in the UK economy that will be filled by British workers in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [164766]

**Caroline Flint:** No such estimate has been made.

## Employment: New Deal Schemes

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the flexible New Deal process outlined in "In work, better off: next steps to full employment" will accommodate the adult careers service recommended by Lord Leitch in his report, "Prosperity for all in the global economy, world class skills". [169913]

**Caroline Flint:** The Government's approach to improving adults' skills is set out in both the recent DWP/DIUS publication "Opportunity, Employment and progression: making skills work" and the Green Paper "In-work, better off: next steps to full employment".

"Opportunity, Employment and progression" sets out how Jobcentre Plus will work collaboratively with the adult advancement and careers service in England and with the equivalent skills services in Scotland and Wales. Skills screening, assessment and development will form an integral part of the activity related to getting a jobseeker into work and progressing where they can. We will combine support for skills development alongside job-search activity to ensure individuals can access the help they need early, taking into account local labour market requirements and the customer's needs and aspirations.

Our Green Paper proposed measures to tackle an individual's basic skills needs early in a jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claim. Throughout their claim, including any period spent on the flexible new deal, JSA customers will be reminded of the importance of continuing to develop their skills to help them secure longer-term employment. We have recently concluded the consultation on "In-work, better off: next steps to full employment" and will publish a full response soon.

## Employment: Vacancies

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the evidential sources for his statement that there are 600,000 vacancies in the economy in each month. [169498]

**Caroline Flint:** The figures are published as part of the Office for National Statistics monthly Labour Market Statistics, in tables 21 and 22 which can be found at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13310&More=n

and

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13311&More=n

respectively.

This information is available in the Library.

## Housing Benefit: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on housing benefit in the Peterborough city council area in each month since January 2004. [173705]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Housing benefit expenditure figures are not available on a monthly basis. The Department receives annual expenditure figures from local authorities via housing and council tax benefit subsidy claim forms.

The available information is in the following table

*Housing benefit expenditure for Peterborough local authority district*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 32.3 |
| 2005-06 | 36.7 |
| 2006-07 | 40.0 |

*Notes:*

1. Information sourced from local authority claims for housing revenue account subsidy and housing benefit subsidy.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000.

3. Figures prior to 2006-07 are audited, but may change in future if local authorities' audited accounts are amended after a decision or appeal. Figures for recent years are more likely to be amended than older data.

4. 2006-07 figures are initial final (pre-audited) and are subject to change.

5. From 1999-2000 onwards, housing benefit expenditure on asylum seekers was funded by the National Asylum Support Service, and is therefore excluded from the figures presented at Great Britain. However, local authority level information includes all expenditure on these benefits relating to asylum seekers, as it is not possible to isolate at this level that part which applies to asylum seekers.

6. Figures relate to what local authorities spend on claimants, and include discretionary expenditure (mainly disregards of War Pensions), and overpayments except where benefit has been granted in advance (where the benefit is paid in the form of a rebate).

*Source:*

DWP Benefit expenditure tables.

DWP housing benefit and council tax benefit expenditure tables are available online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/HBandCTB_expenditure.asp

## Jobcentre Plus: Rural Areas

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the ease of access to Jobcentre Plus in rural areas. [163583]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 13 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what assessments his Department has made of the ease of access to Jobcentre Plus in rural areas. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus services are provided not only through the Jobcentre network but also by telephone through the Contact Centre and Benefit Delivery Centre network as well as the internet. This allows all customers to access services regardless of where they live. Where there are issues about customer access to a Jobcentre provision can be made for additional more flexible support arrangements. These include the installation of Jobpoints in libraries, surgeries in third party premises, partnering in Local Authority outlets and, where practical, some mobile services.

At the inception of Jobcentre Plus in 2002 District Managers developed local service delivery plans in consultation with key stakeholders from the community. This exercise led to the identification of where best to locate our Jobcentre network and where to introduce the additional flexible arrangements referred to above. In developing service delivery plans District Managers had full regard for a range of factors including where people live, the needs of those people, ease and cost of accessing Jobcentres by those communities and the viability of maintaining an outlet or introducing a flexible support arrangement.

Since the development of those original plans our service provision has been continuously improving, because of advances in telephony and e-channels. These improvements mean that District Managers can review the original plans to ensure that we achieve our aim of providing work for those who can and support for those who cannot in the most efficient and effective manner.

Devon & Cornwall Jobcentre Plus District, for example, is in the process of reviewing its Service Delivery Plan. This review is being carried out once again in consultation with key stakeholders and their views will be fully considered before decisions are finalised. Access to services for all customers will be a key consideration of that review regardless of where they live.

I hope this is helpful.

## Minimum Wage: Expenditure

**Mr. Byers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect on his Department's expenditure on benefits which would arise from an increase in the national minimum wage to £6.75 per hour. [174025]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** No such estimate has been made.

## National Insurance: Foreigners

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers have been issued to non-EU foreign nationals in each quarter since 1 January 2004; and what the percentage change was between each *(a)* year and *(b)* quarter. [162142]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information from National Statistics is in the following table.

*National insurance numbers allocated to non-EU nationals entering the UK*

| Year of registration | Number | Percentage change from previous year |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 256,300 | 2.6 |
| 2004-05 | 238,700 | -6.9 |
| 2005-06 | 287,500 | 20.4 |
| 2006-07 | 288,100 | 0.2 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.

2. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

3. Years referred to are financial years. Reliable quarterly estimates from National Statistics are not currently available.

4. Figures exclude cases where nationality is unknown.

5. Figures are produced from section four of the 2007 'NINO allocations to Overseas Nationals Entering the UK' report http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/niall_report.pdf

*Source:*

100 per cent. extract from national insurance recording system at 14 May 2007

### National Insurance: Romania

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers have been issued to *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian citizens in each quarter since 5 April 2002. [162140]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information from National Statistics is in the following table.

*National insurance numbers allocated to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals entering the UK*

| *Year of registration* | *Bulgaria* | *Romania* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 3,990 | 1,880 |
| 2003-04 | 5,160 | 3,170 |
| 2004-05 | 4,490 | 3,290 |
| 2005-06 | 2,810 | 2,860 |
| 2006-07 | 3,080 | 4,360 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.

2. Years referred to are financial years. Reliable quarterly estimates from National Statistics are not currently available.

*Source:*

100 percent. extract from national insurance recording system at 14 May 2007

### New Deal for Young People: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Suffolk registered for new deal for young people in each of the last five years. [172151]

**Caroline Flint:** The requested information is in the following table.

*Starts to new deal for young people in Suffolk*

| | *Number of starts* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 1,140 |
| 2003 | 1,310 |
| 2004 | 1,250 |
| 2005 | 1,150 |
| 2006 | 1,530 |

*Notes:*

1. The county of Suffolk comprises the local authorities of: Babergh; Forest Heath; Ipswich; Mid Suffolk; St. Edmundsbury; Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.

2. Years are calendar years.

3. Latest complete year data are for 2006

4. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

### New Deal Schemes

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which groups of benefits claimants will be fast tracked to the gateway stage of flexible New Deal under the proposals outlined in "In work, better off: next steps to full employment". [169916]

**Caroline Flint:** The Green Paper proposed that the criteria for fast tracking customers to the Gateway stage of flexible new deal would be based on benefit history and those with long recent durations on jobseeker's allowance (JSA) would be mandated to it. Other customers would be able to volunteer for early referral to the Gateway if they are in a recognised disadvantaged group. The flexible new deal would be for JSA customers only.

We have recently concluded our consultation on "In-work, better off: next steps to full employment" and will publish our full response soon.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all strands of current New Deal programmes will be subsumed into flexible New Deal under the proposals outlined in "In work, better off: next steps to full employment". [169917]

**Caroline Flint:** In the Green Paper "In-work, better off: next steps to full employment", we set out our proposals for the flexible new deal. Our proposals are that the flexible new deal would replace the existing mandatory new deal for young people (NDYP) and new deal 25-plus (ND25+) programmes, and would be for jobseeker's allowance (JSA) customers only. The funding for the new deal for musicians, which is offered through NDYP and ND25+, would be incorporated into the flexible new deal.

It is intended that the flexible new deal will look very different to these programmes and will respond more flexibly to individual needs; providers may draw on experiences from the activity offered in the current mandatory new deal programmes but would be able to develop and offer other initiatives as well.

The voluntary new deals are open to customers across benefit groups. Under flexible new deal, there would be some changes to the way the additional support available through flexible new deal applies to jobseeker's allowance (JSA) customers on these programmes.

New deal 50-plus would continue in its present form for non-JSA customers. The support currently offered to JSA customers through new deal 50-plus would be replaced by the additional employment and skills support and activity requirements at the six-month Gateway stage of flexible new deal.

New deal for lone parents would continue to support JSA customers as now. New deal for partners would offer additional work-focused interviews from April 2008 where there are dependent children.

The new deal for disabled people (NDDP) is not available to JSA customers and so would be unaffected by the introduction of the flexible new deal.

We have recently concluded the consultation on "In work, better off: next steps to full employment" and will publish a full response soon.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the flexible New Deal programme proposed in "In work, better off: next steps to full employment" will affect the delivery of the city strategy in pathfinder areas. [170112]

**Caroline Flint:** As with the Department's existing employment programmes, wherever there are local initiatives, Jobcentre Plus and providers operating within the flexible new deal will make best use of the opportunities they offer to improve the employability and job outcomes of unemployed people.

### Poverty: Children

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children there were in families in work earning less than the average national weekly income in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170605]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: The available information is in the following tables.

*Table A: number (million) and percentage of children in families in work with income less than the average national weekly income in each year since 1997*

| | *Number of children living in families in work with income below contemporary median income (before housing costs)* | *Number of children living in families in work* | *Percentage of children living in families in work with income below contemporary median income (before housing costs)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 4.7 | 9.7 | 49 |
| 1997-98 | 5.1 | 10.0 | 51 |
| 1998-99 | 5.2 | 10.0 | 51 |
| 1999-2000 | 5.1 | 10.1 | 51 |
| 2000-01 | 5.1 | 10.1 | 51 |
| 2001-02 | 5.2 | 10.1 | 52 |
| 2002-03 | 5.4 | 10.5 | 51 |
| 2003-04 | 5.3 | 10.4 | 51 |
| 2004-05 | 5.5 | 10.4 | 52 |
| 2005-06 | 5.4 | 10.4 | 52 |

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey

*Table B: number of children (million) in families in work with income below 60 per cent of contemporary median income in each year since 1997*

| | *Number of children living in families in work with income below 60 per cent of contemporary median income (before housing costs)* | *Number of children living in families in work* | *Percentage of children living in families in work with income below 60 per cent of contemporary median income (before housing costs)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 1.4 | 9.7 | 15 |
| 1997-98 | 1.6 | 10.0 | 16 |
| 1998-99 | 1.5 | 10.0 | 15 |
| 1999-2000 | 1.5 | 10.1 | 15 |
| 2000-01 | 1.3 | 10.1 | 13 |
| 2001-02 | 1.4 | 10.1 | 13 |
| 2002-03 | 1.4 | 10.5 | 13 |
| 2003-04 | 1.3 | 10.4 | 13 |
| 2004-05 | 1.3 | 10.4 | 13 |
| 2005-06 | 1.4 | 10.4 | 14 |

*Notes:*

1. The information shown is for Great Britain up to 2001-02 and for the United Kingdom for 2002-03 onwards.

2. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors and will therefore not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

4. Table A uses contemporary median income, a different measure to the Government's preferred poverty measure, to measure national average weekly income. Table B uses the Government's preferred measure of relative low income poverty, defined as being the number of children living in families with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income. This is an internationally recognised measure.

5. The tables show numbers rounded to the nearest 100,000, and percentages based on unrounded source data rounded to the nearest whole per cent.

6. Families have been defined as working if at least one adult (living in the family) is in at least part-time work.

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey

### Unemployed: Children

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance has been issued to Jobcentre Plus on the circumstances in which availability and affordability of childcare is to be taken into account in assessing a claimant's availability for work. [171487]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: Guidance is issued to Jobcentres about the action to take when doubts arise as to whether the jobseeker is available for work. Jobcentres will refer the doubts to an independent decision maker who will determine whether availability and affordability of child care is to be taken into account.

## TREASURY

### 11 Downing Street

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on which dates in 2006 the facilities at 11 Downing Street were used by outside charitable bodies to hold events; and which charities held each event; [167041]

(2) whether charities organising events at 11 Downing Street are required to submit guest lists in advance for each event; [167042]

(3) how many people attended events organised by charities at 11 Downing Street during 2006; [167051]

(4) how much was paid by charities for use of 11 Downing Street in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 to date; [167053]

(5) whether charities using facilities at 11 Downing Street may charge admission fees for those events; [167143]

(6) what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each event held at No. 11 Downing Street by or in conjunction with the Smith Institute in the last 24 months or the nearest period for which records are available; [167667]

(7) what records his Department holds of charitable events that were organised or hosted by his Department, including those held at No. 11 Downing Street, where donations were raised for the charity; [167668]

(8) if he will place in the Library a copy of the guest list of each Smith Institute event held at No. 11 Downing Street between 1 January and 27 June. [167669]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]*: The relevant information is disclosed on the Treasury Freedom of Information website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/information/foi_disclosures/2007/foi_no11_2007.cfm

Details of receptions held by charities in 11 Downing street in 2007-08 will be given to Parliament before the House rises for the summer recess.

### Carbon Markets Expert Group

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the members are of HM Treasury's Carbon Markets Expert group. [173196]

**Angela Eagle:** The Carbon Markets Experts group is intended to use the knowledge and the skills of the private sector to act as a sounding board for the Treasury, and to discuss ways of enhancing and developing the global carbon market. The membership of the group is currently being finalised and invitations will be issued shortly.

### Child Benefit

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of paying the carer of twins, triplets or higher multiple births *(a)* the higher level of child benefit and *(b)* the baby element of tax credit for each child. [173124]

**Jane Kennedy:** The annual extra cost in 2007-08 of paying the eldest child rate of child benefit in respect of multiple birth children is estimated to be approximately £50 million.

This other requested information is available only at a disproportionate cost.

### Child Benefit: Databases

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which civil service grades have permission to download to CD-ROM information on the child benefit database at HM Revenue and Customs; what checks they are required to undertake; which protection mechanisms they should use; and what evaluation he has made of the suitability of current arrangements for such data transfer. [169780]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

### Child Benefit: EU Nationals

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the evidential basis was for his estimate that 14,000 A8 nationals in the UK claim child benefit in respect of children living abroad, as referred to in the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1968W, on child benefit: EU nationals; and what sources of information he used to make the estimate; [169504]

(2) upon what data his Department's estimates of the number of child benefit claims made by A8 nationals in respect of children living abroad are made. [169508]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information is based on information collected by the Child Benefit Office as part of a database maintained for the accession monitoring report, last published on 20 November 2007

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* taxpayers and *(b)* recipients of tax credits or pension credits whose personal details have been misdirected or mislaid by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) or may otherwise be at risk of becoming victims of identity theft due to error or omission by HMRC; and if he will make a statement. [167591]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: The police continue to have no reason to believe that this data have found their way into the wrong hands or have been used for fraudulent purposes or criminal activity.

For details of the data mislaid by HMRC, I refer the hon. member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what security procedures are in place governing the transport of discs and documents containing personal tax related information. [168225]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* On 13 November HMRC initiated immediate increased security with a new three step process:

> transfers will now only take place if they are absolutely necessary;
>
> written authorization for the transfer has to be given by senior HMRC manager; and,
>
> a clear instruction has been given regarding the appropriate standard of protection for the transfer.

Where directors decide that a data transfer by disc is unavoidable such media must, in every case, be securely encrypted at the appropriate level.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of disks containing data protected by the Data Protection Act that were sent to the National Audit Office by *(a)* (i) recorded and (ii) non-recorded delivery and *(b)* (A) Government, (B) private and (C) Royal Mail systems in each of the last two years. [168364]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_0 7.cfm and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which version of which computer software was used for the Child Benefit database within HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* in March 2007 and *(b)* in October 2007. [168708]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* There is an ongoing police investigation and it would not be appropriate to comment on these issues.

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of password to access the Child Benefit database within HM Revenue and Customs was capable of being encrypted. [168710]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The location of the missing data disks is the subject of an ongoing police investigation. It would therefore not be appropriate to comment on these issues.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs made of the cost of de-sensitising the data held on the Child Benefit database prior to its transfer to the National Audit Office in March 2007. [168936]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers, will investigate HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at

> http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what process an IT operator could have extracted data from the HM Revenue and Customs child benefit database in the form requested by the National Audit Office. [169002]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007 *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at

> http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what personal data in relation to child benefit awards were provided to KPMG as part of the National Audit Office's 2006-07 resource accounts audit for HM Revenue and Customs. [169050]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]:* This is a matter for the National Audit Office and the hon. Member may wish to write to the Comptroller and Auditor General about it.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to help alleviate concerns of child benefit recipients whose data were lost by HM Revenue and Customs on possible use of the data by third parties to establish contact with minors. [169261]

**Jane Kennedy:** My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his original statement to the House of Commons on the data loss issue, 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04, that police continue to have no reason to believe that the data have fallen into the wrong hands. The Acting Chairman of HMRC has also written to all customers affected to reassure those affected. The Government are continuing to discuss the broader implications of the incident with a range of organisations, and has considered appropriate steps to manage any risks resulting from the unlikely event that these data fall into the wrong hands.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions discs containing personal data were lost by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors in each year since 1997; and whether in each case the data were *(a)* subsequently found and *(b)* considered (i) lost and (ii) stolen. [169422]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers. The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Wales had their data downloaded onto the discs that have gone missing from HM Revenue and Customs. [170577]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients: including those in Wales.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 nationally and by country are published as part of National Statistics and can be found in table 1 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what extra security measures have been put in place as a result of the recent loss of data sent between HM Revenue and Customs and Standard Life; what review of procedures was undertaken at HM Revenue and Customs following the loss of data in transit; what recommendations were made; what steps were taken; and if he will make a statement. [171493]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: On 20 November 2007 the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_13_3_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs data consisting of *(a)* names and addresses of tax credit and child benefit claimants, *(b)* bank account details of such claimants and *(c)* a combination of names and addresses and bank account details are given a protective marking in accordance with the manual of protective security. [172044]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions data from the child benefit database have been posted to recipients outside HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months. [173669]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1110-18, on HM Revenue and Customs, how many HM Revenue and Customs staff have been interviewed regarding the two missing discs. [173429]

**Jane Kennedy:** The location of the missing data discs is the subject of an ongoing police investigation and it is not appropriate to comment on any aspect of their inquiries.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1110-18; on HM Revenue and Customs, how many discrete physical searches for the two missing discs were conducted *(a)* between 10 November and 14 November inclusive and *(b)* after 14 November; what premises and facilities these covered; and how many personnel were deployed. [173430]

**Jane Kennedy:** The search for the missing data disks is the subject of an ongoing police investigation and it is not appropriate to comment on issues which might form part of that investigation.

### Child Benefit: Telephone Services

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff worked on HM Revenue and Custom's Child Benefit Helpline on each day since 1 October 2007. [173355]

**Jane Kennedy:** The answer is not available in the format requested. However during the period 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007 it is estimated that an average of around 380 full time equivalent staff were employed as advisers on the child benefit helpline. HMRC keeps the demand on the child benefit helpline under constant review and has the flexibility to adjust resource as and when needed.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls were handled by the Child Benefit Helpline on each day between 22 November and 6 December 2007 inclusive. [173428]

**Jane Kennedy:** The following table provides HMRC's best current estimate, of calls handled by the Child Benefit Helpline on each day from 22 November until 6 December 2007 inclusively.

| *Date* | *Calls handled* |
|---|---:|
| 22 November 2007 | 21,080 |
| 23 November 2007 | 14,786 |
| 24 November 2007 | 4,742 |
| 25 November 2007 | 1,301 |
| 26 November 2007 | 25,041 |
| 27 November 007 | 24,873 |
| 28 November 2007 | 19,479 |
| 29 November 2007 | 19,722 |
| 30 November 2007 | 18,031 |
| 1 December 2007 | 4,838 |
| 2 December 2007 | 1,472 |
| 3 December 2007 | 23,628 |
| 4 December 2007 | 25,551 |
| 5 December 2007 | 18,888 |
| 6 December 2007 | 16,185 |

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173493]

**Angela Eagle:** LED lights are used on the Christmas tree supplied by the PFI provider in 1HGR.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173511]

**Angela Eagle:** A real Christmas tree is supplied by the PFI provider for 1 Horse Guards Road. The tree will be removed subsequently and chipped and the material then used on flower beds.

### Data Protection

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional training has been provided in the last two weeks to the staff of HM Revenue and Customs on the safe handling of data to counteract identity theft and other data breaches. [171372]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* On 13 November, HMRC initiated immediate increased security.

I refer the hon. Member to my remarks to the House, on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 344, which set out the three key steps HMRC staff must now follow before transmitting bulk data.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers, will investigate HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

The review will cover the steps that should be taken to ensure any further measures are adhered to consistently by all staff.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168459]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

On 13 November HMRC initiated immediate increased security with a new process:

transfers will now only take place if they are absolutely necessary;

written authorisation for the transfer has to be given by senior HMRC manager; and,

a clear instruction has been given regarding the appropriate standard of protection for the transfer.

Where directors decide that a data transfer by disc is unavoidable such media must, in every case, be securely encrypted at the appropriate level.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many discs containing personal data were lost in total by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors in the latest year for which figures are available. [168941]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at

<http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm>

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169383]

**Jane Kennedy:** The loss of the discs is subject to an ongoing investigation and it would be inappropriate to comment further.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people of each grade have *(a)* partial and *(b)* full access to data held by (i) his Department and (ii) HM Revenue and Customs on child benefit recipients; what guidance his Department issues to persons seeking access to those data; and if he will make a statement. [169589]

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure that its databases containing personal information on members of the public are not accessed by *(a)* unauthorised staff and *(b)* authorised staff for unauthorised purposes. [169717]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Databases

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of each grade have access to electronic databases in his Department which contain personal information on members of the public. [169713]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling, to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers. The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times databases in his Department containing personal information on members of the public were accessed in each month of the last five years. [169714]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times databases in his Department containing personal information on members of the public were transferred *(a)* physically and *(b)* electronically in each year since 1997. [169715]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information is not available.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests his Department received from the National Audit Office for access to its databases containing personal information on members of the public in each year since 1997. [169716]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report, column* 1492W, on departmental telephone services, if he will provide the information his Department holds on the costs of each of its contact centres. [173809]

**Jane Kennedy:** The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171329]

**Angela Eagle:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Economic and Monetary Union

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of UK performance against the five economic tests for entry to the euro; and if he will make a statement. [173572]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Government's policy on membership of the single currency is unchanged. It remains as set out by the former Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons in October 1997, and again in the statement on the five tests assessment in June 2003.

The June 2003 statement on UK membership of the European single currency set out a reform agenda of concrete and practical steps to address the policy requirements identified by the 2003 assessment. The former Chancellor committed the Government to an annual review of progress.

The former Chancellor announced in Budget 2007 that,

> "the Government does not propose a euro assessment to be initiated at the time of this budget."

The Treasury will again review the situation at Budget time next year as required by the June 2003 statement.

## Minimum Wage

**Mr. Byers:** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the *(a)* reductions in tax credit expenditure and *(b)* additional taxation and national insurance revenue which would result from an increase in the national minimum wage to £6.75 per hour. [174024]

**Jane Kennedy:** Changes in expenditure and revenue are not only dependent on the level of the national minimum wage, but also the macroeconomic effects of an increase to the national minimum wage.

It is not possible to reliably estimate the impact that increasing the minimum wage to £6.75 per hour would have. Such a large increase at one time would be likely to jeopardise employment and inflation.

## Perinatal Mortality

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many stillbirths there were as a percentage of all births in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [173968]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 13 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many stillbirths there were as a percentage of all births in the UK in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (173968)

The table below shows the number of stillbirths, and stillbirths as a percentage of all births in the UK, 1997 to 2006.

*Number of stillbirths and stillbirths as a percentage of all births, United Kingdom, 1997-2006*

| *Year* | *No. of stillbirths* | *Stillbirths as % of all births*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 3,889 | 0.53 |
| 1998 | 3,890 | 0.54 |
| 1999 | 3,723 | 0.53 |
| 2000 | 3,594 | 0.53 |
| 2001 | 3,572 | 0.53 |
| 2002 | 3,772 | 0.56 |
| 2003 | 4,016 | 0.57 |
| 2004 | 4,116 | 0.57 |
| 2005 | 3,864 | 0.53 |
| 2006 | 3,987 | 0.53 |

[1] All births includes live births and stillbirths.

## Population: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population is of *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth constituency, broken down by age group; and if he will make a statement. [173078]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the population is of (a) Staffordshire and (b) Tamworth constituency, broken down by age group (173078).

The attached table, Table 1a, shows the population by quinary age group for Staffordshire for mid-2005 and mid-2006. Table 1b shows the population by quinary age group for Tamworth constituency for mid-2005. These are the latest population estimates available.

*Table 1a: Population estimates for Staffordshire by quinary age group for mid-2005 and mid-2006*

*Thousand*

| *Mid-year* | *All ages* | *0-4* | *5-9* | *10-14* | *15-19* | *20-24* | *25-29* | *30-34* | *35-39* | *40-44* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 821 | 43 | 48 | 52 | 53 | 47 | 41 | 52 | 63 | 64 |
| 2006 | 823 | 43 | 47 | 51 | 54 | 48 | 41 | 49 | 62 | 65 |

*Thousand*

| *Mid-year* | *45-49* | *50-54* | *55-59* | *60-64* | *65-69* | *70-74* | *75-79* | *80-84* | *85+* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 57 | 54 | 61 | 50 | 41 | 34 | 27 | 20 | 15 |
| 2006 | 59 | 54 | 60 | 52 | 42 | 34 | 28 | 20 | 16 |

*Table 1b: Population estimates for Tamworth parliamentary constituency by quinary age group for mid-2005*

*Thousand*

| *Mid-year* | *All ages* | *0-4* | *5-9* | *10-14* | *15-19* | *20-24* | *25-29* | *30-34* | *35-39* | *40-44* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 93 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 |

*Thousand*

| *Mid-year* | *45-49* | *50-54* | *55-59* | *60-64* | *65-69* | *70-74* | *75-79* | *80-84* | *85+* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

*Note:*
Data are rounded to the nearest 100 and therefore may not add due to rounding.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

### Public Expenditure

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* the lowest rate of economic return is on an approved existing Government expenditure project in each Government Department and *(b)* the size of the approved expenditure in each case. [173540]

**Angela Eagle:** Spending projects are appraised within each Government Department according to the guidance contained in "The Green Book: Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government." The Government use a discount rate of 3.5 per cent. in real terms in central Government appraisals to produce net present value figures which are used in support of decision making. Records of projected net present values are not centrally collected and the cost of supplying this information is considered prohibitive.

### Revenue and Customs: Civil Proceedings

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions legal proceedings have been instigated against HM Revenue and Customs for alleged offences not directly related to assessing tax liabilities, administering the tax system or the collection of tax. [171953]

**Jane Kennedy:** Since its formation HM Revenue and Customs has not been prosecuted for any offences.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions court proceedings, now completed, have been instigated against HM Revenue and Customs in the last three years. [171976]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate expense.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 252W.

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what standard procedure is used at HM Revenue and Customs for the transportation of personal information outside secure offices; [168463]

(2) how many copies are routinely made of personal information by HM Revenue and Customs when dealing with a case; [168464]

(3) how many CDs that carry information on members of the public have been mislaid by HM Revenue and Customs in the last 10 years; [168465]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how CDs are identified as carrying secure personal information by HM Revenue and Customs. [168466]

**Jane Kennedy:** The location of the missing data discs is the subject of an ongoing police investigation. On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling, to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have dispatched discs containing confidential data to solicitors dealing with HMRC prosecutions in the same package as the access password over the last three years. [169102]

**Jane Kennedy:** It would be inappropriate to comment on this issue as there is an ongoing police investigation.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

<http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm>

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of security measures taken by HM Revenue and Customs in respect of the transportation of discs containing *(a)* confidential and *(b)* personal data. [169103]

**Jane Kennedy:** The loss of the discs is subject to an ongoing Police investigation and it would be inappropriate to comment further.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of removing the data which was not required by the National Audit Office from the discs that recently went missing from HM Revenue and Customs. [169766]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what systems HM Revenue and Customs has in place to track deliveries placed with mail carriers. [169891]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* On 20 November 2007 the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what systems are in place within HM Revenue and Customs to flag up suspicious use of data by its employees; [173356]

(2) what internal policies HM Revenue and Customs had in place regarding the use of removable media on 18 October 2007. [173357]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Revenue and Customs: Sick Leave

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many sick days were taken by Tax Credit Office staff in each of the last 12 months; and what the average number of sick days was per staff member in each of those months. [167658]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is given in the following table:

| | *Tax credit office* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Full-time equivalent days taken* | *Average working days lost* |
| October 2006 | 4,239.62 | 1.17 |
| November 2006 | 3,870.84 | 1.17 |
| December 2006 | 3,125.31 | 0.96 |
| January 2007 | 4,037.03 | 1.24 |
| February 2007 | 3,724.54 | 1.16 |
| March 2007 | 3,346.64 | 1.07 |
| April 2007 | 4,235.74 | 0.86 |
| May 2007 | 5,146.76 | 1.05 |
| June 2007 | 5,053.19 | 1.05 |
| July 2007 | 5,482.22 | 1.16 |
| August 2007 | 5,446.68 | 1.16 |
| September 2007 | 4,653.60 | 0.99 |
| Year | 52,362.17 | 12.95 |

### Self-employed: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average income of a self-employed person in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* the UK was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [173080]

**Angela Eagle:** The mean self-employment income of taxpayers in the constituency of Tamworth can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by parliamentary constituency" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315.

These tables are only available for 2003-04 and 2004-05 and are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes.

The mean total income of people in the UK with self-employment sources of income is shown in 3.10 "Income of individuals with self employment sources, by range of self employment income and source" on the HM Revenue and customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#310

The tables are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes and are available for 1999-2000 to 2000-5. Information for earlier years can be found in the annual Inland Revenue Statistics publications available in the Library.

### Trading Funds

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the findings of the review of trading funds commissioned from Cambridge University. [172474]

**Andy Burnham:** The Government will publish the analysis undertaken by Cambridge university on the definition and charging models for the public information held by trading funds in the new year.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1500-01W, on welfare tax credits, how many tax credit overpayments have been written off *(a)* in total and *(b)* in part since 2003 due to exceptional circumstances; and what the reasons were in each case. [173810]

**Jane Kennedy:** The value of overpayments remitted on the grounds of hardship is compiled annually to the end of October and shown in the following table. Figures cannot be disaggregated into instances of total and partial write offs.

| | *Number of cases* | *Amount remitted (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 437 | 287 |
| 2006 | 134 | 148 |

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of overpaid tax credit where a joint award was made but the couple have since separated there have been where HM Revenue and Customs has sought recovery from *(a)* one and *(b)* both partners in each year since 2003. [166318]

**Jane Kennedy:** At April 2007 there were about 270,000 claims originally made by couples, who are recorded as having split up by that date, and for which there were outstanding undisputed overpayments over £10 for 2003-04, 2004-05 or 2005-06.

The other information requested is not available.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Chequers

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance on the use of Chequers by civil servants when the Prime Minister is not resident; [171236]

(2) on how many occasions Chequers has been used by civil servants on occasions when the Prime Minister was not present in the last 12 months; and for what purposes in each case. [171237]

**Gillian Merron** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: Chequers has not been used by civil servants when the Prime Minister was not present in the last 12 months.

Guidance on the use of official residences is set out in the Ministerial Code.

### Civil Service Agencies: Information Officers

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance he has issued on the creation and operation of separate press offices with Departments' Executive agencies. [171451]

**Gillian Merron:** There is no central guidance on whether Executive agencies should run separate press offices from their parent Departments. This is a matter for individual Departments and agencies. The guidance issued across the Government Communication Network on issues like propriety is the same for press officers in all Government bodies.

### Departmental Records: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Department is responsible for the files and records formerly held by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. [171457]

**Gillian Merron:** The Cabinet Office is responsible for the files and records formerly held by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Bulgaria: Children in Care

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on conditions for children in care in Bulgaria; and whether he plans to make representations on the matter to the Bulgarian authorities. [172702]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Since the documentary on the Mogilino Children's Care Home was first screened by the BBC, we have received over 150 emails and letters about childcare in Bulgaria. Our Embassy in Sofia has raised the issue with the Bulgarian Prime Minister, Justice Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Policy and remains in close touch with the authorities, as well as with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and others active in this field such as the UN Children's Fund. Embassy officials are encouraging NGOs to work together and alongside the Bulgarian authorities, to help implement the necessary reforms. The Bulgarians have announced that they will direct around €5 million of EU structural funds for 2008 to develop alternative care arrangements.

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173502]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no specific policy on this matter.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173528]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** All Christmas trees for use in common areas of Foreign and Commonwealth Office buildings in the UK are real. They are procured in full compliance with Government procurement rules, including environmental aspects. Once removed, trees are disposed of by chipping, to create soil-improving mulch and compost. Decorations provided with the trees remain the property of the supplier and are recovered for subsequent re-use. Our overseas missions apply the same guidelines, although practice may vary according to local circumstances.

### Colombia: Armed Forces

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason British military assistance has been provided to the High Mountain Battalions of the Colombian Army. [173574]

**Dr. Howells:** Our bilateral defence co-operation programme in Colombia has very specific objectives: to improve the Colombian Army and National Police's adherence to human rights norms and values, including international humanitarian law, humanitarian demining and counter narcotics. All our assistance has respect for human rights at its core. It comes with conditions and safeguards attached, and we monitor this closely. All reasonable precautions, subject to resource constraints, are undertaken to avoid any UK assistance being implicated in any human rights abuses.

We do not publish details of all the support we provide, nor to whom we provide it, as to disclose such information could endanger not only the effectiveness of the support, but also the lives of the British and Colombian personnel involved.

### Colombia: Human Rights

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the observance of human rights in Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [173573]

**Dr. Howells:** We are concerned about the human rights situation in Colombia and the continued threats against human rights defenders, including trade unionists, community leaders and teachers. However, we are encouraged by the positive steps the Government of Colombia have been taking to address the human rights situation. For example, a new unit of specialised prosecutors with greater resources has been established to deal with cases of human rights abuses involving trade unionists - a point specifically welcomed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in his report on Colombia, published on 15 March 2007.

The UK provides assistance to Colombia in the area of human rights so that the serious, continuing challenges facing the country can be addressed and further improvements can be made to the lives of the Colombian people. Further detail can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/
UK%20Columbia%20Assistance%Matrix.pdf

We will continue to work with the Colombian Government and other partners, such as the EU, UN and civil society, to help Colombia address its serious problems.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many unique visitors there were to each departmental blog in the last month; how many full-time equivalent staff work on each blog; and what the costs of each were for 2007-08. [173177]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The statistics available to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the Blogging Platform are for the site as a whole and show the number of sessions. For November 2007, there were 52,322 individual sessions on the platform. The statistics are not broken down by individual blog, nor can we say how many unique visitors there were.

Between two and three full-time equivalent members of staff work on the Blogging Platform dealing with all of the blogs, of which there are currently eight. This includes the bloggers themselves, those involved in filming and uploading content and those responsible for updating and maintaining the platform.

The Blogging Platform was launched on 26 September 2007. To date, the costs for setting up and maintaining the platform have been £10,185.52 plus the salaries of the staff involved.

### Ethiopia: Eritrea

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Ethiopia and Eritrea border dispute. [172940]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government's policy towards the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute is based on three principles: to avoid any return to war, which would be unacceptable; for the border to be demarcated; and for the Parties to find a way to normalise relations. Ethiopia and Eritrea should agree a way forward to allow demarcation to proceed and for a normalisation process to begin.

We have set out this policy to both Ethiopia and Eritrea, including when my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfm and when my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Baroness Vadera, and our ambassador in Addis Ababa met Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, in November. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, also made these points to Eritrean Foreign Minister Osman Saleh in November.

We support the efforts of the UN with the Parties and will continue to pursue this policy with our international partners, including through the UN Security Council (UNSC). In this regard, we fully support the UNSC's Presidential Statement of 13 November, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

### International Law

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the UK has advanced for internationally agreed procedures to prevent breakdowns of states and societies, as referred to in the Prime Minister's Mansion House speech of 12 November. [166136]

**David Miliband:** The UK is already playing a leading role alongside international partners in ensuring that the international community can become more effective in preventing the breakdown of states and societies. Effective measures will require international consensus on the challenges and the backing of the international community. That is why the UK is pressing the UN and other bodies to deliver the 2005 World Summit commitment to the creation of a single Early Warning System and to operationalise the concept of Responsibility to Protect also endorsed at that World Summit. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out the clear challenge to the international community to deliver its commitments by improving procedures to prevent conflict. Specifically, the UN Security Council needs to act earlier, and there needs to be more use of targeted sanctions and international criminal court actions. The UK will continue to work with international partners on specific mechanisms to deliver existing international commitments.

### Iran: Nuclear Weapons

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what decisions were taken at the meeting of E3+3 Political Directors in Paris on 1 December about the next stage in discussions with Iran over its nuclear programme; and when the next meeting between Javier Solana and Saeed Jalili is expected. [172792]

**David Miliband:** E3+3 Political Directors agreed in Paris on 1 December that neither the report of Mohammed El Baradei nor that of Javier Solana could be described as a 'positive outcome', the test set in the statement issued by E3+3 Foreign Ministers on 28 September in New York. Accordingly, they agreed that we should seek a new UN Security Council sanctions resolution. Dr. Solana made clear to Sa'id Jalili that they should remain in touch as necessary, but there is no date fixed for a further meeting at present.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether Iran is meeting its commitments under the IAEA-Iran work plan of August 2007; and if he will make a statement. [172793]

**David Miliband:** Dr. Mohammed El Baradei, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), reported on 15 November the level of co-operation Iran was giving the agency following the agreement of the IAEA-Iran work plan. In his report, he stated that Iran had provided 'sufficient access' to individuals and had responded in a 'timely manner' to the IAEA's questions. However, he also noted that co-operation had been 'reactive rather than proactive' and that active co-operation and full transparency were 'indispensable for full and prompt implementation of the work plan'. Even more concerning, he noted that the IAEA's knowledge about Iran's current nuclear programme is diminishing.

We share Dr. El Baradei's concerns. After many years of concealing its nuclear programme, Iran has still not disclosed in full its past nuclear activities, and the IAEA is still unable to state its confidence in the answers Iran has given. To do this, the IAEA has made clear that Iran needs to give proactive co-operation and implement the Additional Protocol. Unless Iran does this, the IAEA has said it is unable to provide assurances about the exclusively peaceful nature of the programme. If Iran is serious about building international trust, it should implement the Additional Protocol and suspend all enrichment-related activities without delay.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the most recent United States intelligence agencies' National Intelligence Estimate Report, Iran: Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities. [173081]

**Dr. Howells:** It is not the practice of this or previous Governments to comment on intelligence matters. However, nothing in the National Intelligence Estimate changes the fundamental problem that we face which is Iran's pursuit of a uranium enrichment programme that has, as far as we can see, no civilian application. This is despite the unanimous demand from the UN Security Council and from the International Atomic Energy Agency that it stops doing so. Accordingly, we will continue to act in the UN, the EU and bilaterally to persuade Iran to change its approach and comply with its international responsibilities.

### Kuwait

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's personnel were based in Kuwait in support of Operation Telic in each year since 2003. [170812]

**Dr. Howells:** There has been one UK based member of staff posted to our embassy in Kuwait in support of Operation Telic in each year since 2003. However, before the set up of the Iraq support unit in February/March 2004, embassy staff already posted in Kuwait helped with the logistics of officials travelling to Iraq.

### Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK made to UN peacekeeping operations in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [172533]

**David Miliband:** The following table provides details of the UK's contribution to UN peacekeeping operations over the last 10 years. The figures include troop, police and civilian personnel.

The UK is currently the fourth largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget.

In addition, the UK makes a significant contribution of troops to UN mandated missions, including Afghanistan (7,700), Kosovo (140) and Bosnia (19).

| | *Military personnel, military observers, police, civilians* | *UK assessed contributions to UN peacekeeping (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | n/a | 57,685,432 |
| 1998 | n/a | 29,337,251 |
| 1999 | n/a | 28,020,242 |
| 2000 | 594 | 93,951,000 |
| 2001 | 714 | 126,725,157 |
| 2002 | 612 | 86,928,831 |
| 2003 | 563 | 87,286,235 |
| 2004 | 542 | 152,915,762 |
| 2005 | 349 | 163,600,452 |
| 2006 | 358 | 199,566,553 |
| 2007[1] | 366 | 221,018,081 |
| Total | 4,098 | 1,247,034,996 |

[1] Forecast.

## Projecting British Islam

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what work has been undertaken by Projecting British Islam delegations abroad; who the members of each delegation were; what the cost of each delegation was; and how he plans to evaluate their effectiveness. [174087]

**Dr. Howells:** The 'Projecting British Islam' project is a programme of media intensive visits by British Muslim delegations, supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), to countries with significant Muslim populations. The aim is to counter misconceptions and misperceptions, which are exploited by extremists, about the treatment of Muslims and Islam in the UK.

In financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the delegations cost £350,000, visiting: Bahrain, Qatar, Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Algeria, Bosnia, Morocco, Tanzania, Kenya, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the USA.

In financial years 2007-08 the FCO has allocated £180,000 to this project, for delegations to a range of countries including Sudan, Indonesia, Libya, Yemen, Afghanistan, Egypt, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

To date more than 60 British Muslims have taken part, reflecting the diversity of British Muslim communities, and with a balance of age and gender. The delegates come from a range of professional backgrounds—doctors, scholars, lawyers, teachers, bankers and community activists.

To evaluate the effectiveness of the project, we monitor media coverage in the countries concerned surrounding the delegation's visit and receive feedback from the delegates and the opinion-formers they meet. We also encourage follow-up by delegates on their return to the UK, in particular working through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Preventing Violent Extremism work.

## Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the UK's proposal for an international standby civilian force which could be deployed to rebuild civic societies as referred to in the Prime Minister's Mansion House speech of 12 November. [166138]

**David Miliband:** The UK and other leading players in the post-conflict field operate different rosters of reconstruction experts. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister indicated that these separate capacities need to be brought together to ensure the UN and other international agencies can draw on the right expertise to respond quickly and effectively to post-conflict situations. The UK will develop proposals with the UN and international allies first.

## Russia: Elections

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* opposition parties and *(b)* civil organisations in Russia on reports of voting irregularities in the recent election. [172048]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held such discussions, but our Embassy in Moscow regularly with Russian political parties, and local civil society organisations such as "Golos", an independent Russian civic organisation founded in 2000 to defend voters' rights which unites over 280 non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Representatives of opposition parties and civil society have raised concerns about a number of aspects of the 2 December parliamentary election campaign, and about conduct on polling day.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office made a statement on 3 December expressing its concern about allegations of electoral malpractice which, if proven correct, would suggest that the Russian parliamentary elections were neither free nor fair.

The EU issued a statement on 5 December in which it regretted the numerous reports and allegations of media restrictions, as well as harassment of opposition parties and NGOs in the run-up to the elections, and on election day, and concluded that procedures during the electoral campaign did not meet international standards and commitments voluntarily assumed by Moscow. The EU hoped that investigations would clarify the accuracy of these allegations. The EU also regretted that there was no long-term observation mission from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)/Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office to follow the election campaign and underlined that the presence of ODIHR would have constituted a reliable basis for a full assessment of the elections.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place between the Government, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the EU on the conduct of the Russian election. [172049]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** At the recent meeting of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Ministerial Council in Madrid on 29 November I said that we

> "regret that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has recently faced a number of unprecedented restrictions and bureaucratic obstacles to observing the Russian Duma elections".

I also met the Director of ODIHR, Ambassador Strohal, on 22 November, and discussed monitoring of the Russian elections with him. The EU presidency also spoke on behalf of EU member states at the OSCE Permanent Council on 6 December. The presidency welcomed the fact that the elections had taken place in an orderly and organised fashion, but regretted the numerous reports and allegations of media restrictions, as well as harassment of opposition parties and non-governmental organisations in the run-up to the elections and on election day. The statement concluded that procedures during the electoral campaign did not meet the international standards and commitments voluntarily assumed by Moscow and hoped that investigations would clarify the accuracy of these allegations. The EU also regretted that there was no long-term observation mission from ODIHR or OSCE to monitor the election campaign and underlined that the presence of ODIHR would have provided a reliable basis for a full assessment of the elections.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the Russian election result on the wider region. [172050]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** It is too early to determine what impact the results of the Russian parliamentary election may have on the politics across the wider region. It is reassuring that Kyrgyzstan and Georgia have extended invitations to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's specialist election monitoring body, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, to monitor their parliamentary elections on 16 December 2007 and 5 January 2008 respectively. A smaller delegation will be observing the Presidential election in Uzbekistan on 23 December 2007.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on UK relations with Russia following the Russian parliamentary elections. [172051]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We continue to engage Russia in pursuit of our international objectives related to energy security, climate change, international peace and security. This approach was commended in the recently published Foreign Affairs Committee report "Global Security: Russia".

However, we share the widespread concern about the conduct of the Russian parliamentary elections. There were numerous allegations of electoral malpractice which, if proven correct, would suggest that the elections were neither free nor fair. Our long-standing policy is to air our concerns openly with the Russian Government, for example on human rights and the shrinking democratic space. We have said that it is vital that the Russian Central Election Committee urgently investigates all allegations of electoral abuses and that the Russian Government put in place systems to ensure that the Presidential elections in March 2008 will be transparent and democratic.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many election observers were sent from the UK to monitor the recent Russian elections. [172948]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the right hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1303W.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe on the conduct of the recent elections in Russia. [173372]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** At the recent meeting of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Ministerial Council in Madrid on 29 November I said that we

> "regret that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has recently faced a number of unprecedented restrictions and bureaucratic obstacles to observing the Russian Duma elections".

I also met the Director of ODIHR, Ambassador Strohal, on 22 November, and discussed monitoring of the Russian elections with him.

## South Africa: Mining

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government have had with the South African Government on fatal accidents involving mineworkers. [173423]

**Dr. Howells:** We have not discussed mine fatalities with the South African Government. There exists already a strong domestic debate in South Africa on this issue. In October President Mbeki ordered a safety audit of South Africa's mines. In addition, the National Union of Miners and the Congress of South African Trade Unions are actively pressing the Government to take further steps to ensure miner safety, with the former leading a march on December to protest against the level of fatalities in South Africa's mines. The Chamber of Mines has confirmed it will engage with stakeholders on mine safety.

## Sudan: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government of Sudan has approved landing and night flying rights to all UNAMID aircraft. [173248]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** UN Under-Secretary-General, Jean-Marie Guehenno, Head of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), told the UN Security Council on 27 November that the Government of Sudan had not approved adequate night flying rights for aircraft of the UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID).

However, representatives of the DPKO discussed UNAMID deployment, including landing and night flying, with representatives of the Government of Sudan on 8 December. The press statement released after the meeting noted that both sides agreed on the importance of the full and timely implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1769 and agreed to continue their discussions to resolve issues.

We have pressed the Government of Sudan to co-operate fully with the DPKO over UNAMID deployment and we continue to monitor closely their discussions.

### Sudan: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of progress made by the Southern Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission in facilitating South-South dialogue. [173247]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We understand the work of the Southern Sudan Peace Commission (SSPC) has stalled since the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Movement's (SPLM) withdrawal from the Government of National Unity.

The UK is urging the SPLM and National Congress Party to resolve their differences about the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Renewed and accelerated CPA implementation is essential for stability and peace in the whole of Sudan.

We are pressing all sides to speed up the reconciliation process and to resolve all outstanding CPA-related issues. The UK is discussing a support programme for reconciliation and community security in the south, which would include support to the SSPC.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has *(a)* made and *(b)* received on the adequacy of helicopter numbers for the UNAMID mission to Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [166140]

**David Miliband:** We have had extensive contacts over several months with senior UN officials about requirements for the UN African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), including helicopters, and have regularly called in the UN Security Council and elsewhere for the force's full and early deployment. Most recently, I spoke about delays to the deployment with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 7 December.

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has planned for 18 transport helicopters and six tactical utility helicopters for UNAMID, and has identified and approached countries that could potentially supply them. We have worked closely with the DPKO to support its lobbying efforts with those countries. We continue to work closely with them, with allies in the UN Security Council and with other potential contributors to secure the supply of helicopters.

### Translation Services

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's budget for translating Government publications and online services into other languages *(a)* was in 2006-07 and *(b)* is for 2007-08. [173351]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold dedicated budgets for translating Government publications and online services and the information requested by the hon. Member could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Tristan da Cunha: Overseas Aid

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department is providing to the people of Tristan da Cunha; and if he will make a statement. [172942]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Tristan da Cunha is financially self-sufficient and therefore does not receive any direct budgetary assistance from the Government. The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £60,000 for some off-island training activities and a review of options for Tristan to diversify its economy and increase its revenue. DFID provides a resident doctor, and a visiting dentist and optometrist, under its health programme for St Helena. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and DFID are funding £107,000 this financial year from their Overseas Territories Environment Project budget for a number of small-scale development projects. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is also working closely with DFID and the Tristan Government on the emergency repairs of Calshot Harbour.

A recent viral outbreak on Tristan da Cunha has triggered a rise in the cases of asthma on the island. The island has enough stocks of the necessary drugs for this not to be an emergency situation now. Following close liaison with the Administrator on Tristan, DFID, the Ministry of Defence and others, however, we are making arrangements to provide an additional supply of drugs in advance of the next regular ship's visit to the island at the end of January 2008. We hope to be able to deliver these supplies to the island on a Royal Navy vessel around 15 December.

### Zimbabwe: Human Rights

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to raise the issue of human rights in Zimbabwe at the EU-African Union Summit in Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [172381]

**David Miliband:** My noble Friend the right hon. Baroness Amos raised Zimbabwe and the appalling human rights situation caused by President Mugabe during her intervention on behalf of the UK at the EU/Africa summit in Lisbon. As high representative for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana delivered a statement on behalf of the EU underlining member states' collective concern at the deteriorating human rights situation. Other EU member states (Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden) also made interventions that specifically criticised the human rights situation in Zimbabwe.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Drugs

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the final report by his Department and the World Bank into possible economic incentives to reduce opium production in Afghanistan will be published; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [174173]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The final report by DFID and the World Bank into possible economic incentives to reduce opium production in Afghanistan will be published at the end of January. A copy will be placed in the Library as part of our broader dissemination strategy.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the North Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the provision of humanitarian assistance to the country following the ACP-EU joint parliamentary meeting earlier this month. [169906]

**Mr. Thomas:** Recent assessments by DFID and the United Nations in North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) suggest that for the moment, although the humanitarian situation is serious, most of the critical humanitarian needs are being met. However, many areas are increasingly difficult to access, both due to ongoing conflict and poor infrastructure. The recent surge in fighting between the FARDC and forces of rebel General Nkunda is a serious cause for concern. There are reports of tens of thousands of newly displaced people. Although funding is available to respond to further needs through the DRC Humanitarian Pooled Fund—to which DFID has contributed £30 Million in 2007—if large scale displacements occur, the capacity of the humanitarian community could become overstretched and may struggle to address the humanitarian needs.

On the 22 November, the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly adopted a resolution which called on the Governments of the EU and ACP countries, the Council of the EU, the European Commission, the UN and the African Union (AU) to do everything possible to provide efficient and adequate aid to the population in the east of the DRC and to contribute to address a humanitarian disaster. As a member of the Good Humanitarian Donorship group in the DRC, DFID regularly meets with partners, including EU counterparts and the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), to discuss humanitarian assistance priorities and needs. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was paid in consultancy fees by his Department in each year since 1997. [171998]

**Mr. Malik:** Expenditure on consultancy services for the financial years 1997-98 to 2006-07 is listed in the following table. For 2000-01 onwards this includes both consultancy to deliver parts of our development programme where services are often provided to third parties such as recipient Governments, and consultancy to DFID as an organisation. For 1997-98 to 1999-2000, figures only include consultancies to deliver the development programme (as published in Statistics on International Development). Consolidated amounts for consultancy to DFID as an organisation are not available for this period.

*£ million*

| | *Consultancy spend* | *Of which programme budget (delivering parts of our development programmes)* | *Administration budget (consultancy to DFID as an organisation)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | | 204 | |
| 1998-99 | | 199 | |
| 1999-2000 | | 197 | |
| 2000-01 | 284 | 209 | 75 |
| 2001-02 | 273 | 257 | 16 |
| 2002-03 | 274 | 250 | 24 |
| 2003-04 | 270 | 241 | 29 |
| 2004-05 | 276 | 239 | 37 |
| 2005-06 | 255 | 228 | 27 |
| 2006-07 | 270 | 250 | 20 |

These figures do not include lower-value contracts issued by DFID's overseas offices, which could be obtained only by incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172512]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has records of data for waste arisings from our UK buildings for the last four years:

| | *Total waste (tonnes)* | *Percentage recycled /re-used (%)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 342 | [1]81 |
| 2004-05 | 364 | 77 |
| 2005-06 | 335 | 78 |
| 2006-07 | 329 | 80 |

[1] recycling figure based on waste contractors policy, no reports available.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174401]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for International Development is strongly committed to the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets. We have an Environmental Operations Policy outlining our commitment to meeting the Government waste targets, minimising and recycling waste as far as possible. Our Waste Contractors have policies in place which guarantee they will recycle at least 75 per cent. of all our waste.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174424]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has records of data for waste arising from our UK buildings for the last four years:

| | *Total waste (tonnes)* | *Percentage recycled /re-used (%)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 342 | [1]81 |
| 2004-05 | 364 | 77 |
| 2005-06 | 335 | 78 |
| 2006-07 | 329 | 80 |

[1] recycling figure based on waste contractors policy, no reports available.

## Economic Agreements: Intellectual Property

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's policy is on the inclusion of provisions on intellectual property rights in economic partnership agreements; and what assessment he has made of their likely effect on access to essential medicines. [172988]

**Mr. Thomas:** No intellectual property provisions have been included in the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) signed to date.

The UK has always been clear that issues other than trade in goods should only be included in EPAs if the African, Caribbean or Pacific regions wish them to be. If a region wants to negotiate intellectual property rights in its EPA, then the UK policy is that no country should be required to go beyond existing commitments under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement on trade related intellectual property rights (TRIPS). This agreement includes the right for countries to improve their access to cheaper medicines by producing, exporting or importing generic medicines under a compulsory licence. The UK supports this right. The Department for International Development has financed a number of organisations to assist developing countries to make better use of their TRIPS flexibilities, including compulsory licensing.

## Gaza: Health Services

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the availability of medical stocks in hospitals and clinics in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [172532]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID does not carry out its own assessments, but relies on information from other bodies including the World Health Organisation (WHO). According to WHO's latest information from October this year, 91 out of 416 essential drugs, and 188 out of 596 essential medical supplies were out of stock due to problems faced by suppliers in delivering. Stocks of a further 114 items of medical suppiies were only predicted to last one to three months.

More recently, in November the UN OCHA reported that first line paediatric antibiotics were no longer available in the Ministry of Health (MoH) because the only drug manufacturer that produces them in Gaza is unable to import the necessary chemical precursors. In addition, certain expensive drugs that are not on the essential drug list and that the MoH has no budget to procure have run out.

These shortages are the result of the closure of Gaza's crossings. We call on all sides to assume their responsibilities in ensuring they re-open as soon as possible, and stand ready to provide appropriate assistance. I raised the closure of Gaza crossings and its humanitarian impact with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities during my visit earlier this week.

## Iraq: Overseas Aid

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 437-38W, on Iraq: Overseas Aid: (1) how much of the £744 million the Government has allocated to Iraq came from his Department; [170808]

(2) how much of the £744 million the Government has allocated to Iraq has not been used by the Iraqis. [170810]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The UK has pledged £744 million for reconstruction and development in Iraq since 2003. From 2003 to March 2007, £667 million has been disbursed, of which £489 million has been spent by DFID (including EC contributions). The DFID budget for Iraq in 2007-08 is £30 million. We expect to have spent the total HMG pledge by the end of 2008-09.

The UK has disbursed the following amounts by contributing Department:

*£ million*

| | *DFID (including EC contribution)* | *FCO (Secondments and Peacekeeping Conflict Pool)* | *MOD (Quick Impact Projects)* | *Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) Joint DFID/FCO/MOD* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 227 | 29 | 0 | 5 |
| 2004-05 | 70 | 21 | 30 | 18 |
| 2005-06 | 110 | 15 | 5 | 15 |
| 2006-07 | 73 | 12 | 3 | 25 |
| Total | 489 | 77 | 38 | 63 |

*Note*
Unofficial estimates only

## Somalia: Overseas Aid

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the distribution on food aid in the Lower Shabelle region of Somalia. [172941]

**Mr. Thomas:** Recent reports including that of Sir John Holmes, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, who visited some of the worst affected areas on 3 December, are that despite the many obstacles facing them, and the increasing seriousness of the situation, relief agencies are now distributing food and other essential supplies to the estimated 223,000 people in Lower Shabelle who were displaced from Mogadishu by this year's fighting. Supply routes via the port of Merca and by road still face obstruction where payment is demanded at checkpoints. We and others are putting pressure on the authorities to deal with this problem. However, distribution monitoring remains inadequate and the World Food Programme is taking steps to improve this by opening a base in Lower Shabelle and deploying more staff there.

DFID has provided £8.6 million to the UN agencies, NGOs and the International Committee of the Red Cross who are leading the humanitarian effort in Somalia. We are prepared to provide further support.

### Sudan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the status is of the Eastern Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund. [173249]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Government of National Unity have allocated the required US$100 million to the Eastern Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund but this funding has yet to be disbursed. The structure of the Fund's governing board, which is detailed in Article 23 of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, has been agreed. However, the executive director has not yet been appointed and as such the board is not operational. State governments, however, are preparing projects in anticipation of the receipt of funds.

### Tanzania: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will review the UK aid programme to Tanzania in the light of the Silverdale case. [166006]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: We regularly review our aid programme to Tanzania and take account of all aspects of the country's performance and prospects for reducing poverty. The experiences of investors, including cases such as that of Silverdale, are considered as part of those reviews. But the most important consideration is whether we believe our assistance will effectively reduce poverty.

## HEALTH

### Adult Dental Health Survey

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what date the next Adult Dental Health Survey will be published; [173776]

(2) what funding his Department has committed to the forthcoming Adult Dental Health Survey. [173777]

**Ann Keen:** Responsibility for determining the way forward on the next Adult Dental Health survey rests with the Information Centre for health and social care (IC).

The IC is looking, with the Department and other stakeholders at the way forward. The funding requirements will be dependent on the outcome of these discussions and will feed into relevant organisations business planning for 2008-09 and subsequent years. We cannot yet predict when the results of the survey will be published.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to *(a)* West Suffolk hospital, *(b)* Addenbrookes hospital and *(c)* Ipswich hospital as a consequence of (i) alcoholic liver disease and (ii) cirrhosis in each of the last five years. [170781]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information is not available by individual hospital rather it is collected for national health service trusts that the named hospitals are managed by. The following table shows the count of finished admission episodes at West Suffolk Hospital, Cambridge University Hospital National Health Service Foundation Trust (of which Addenbrookes Hospital is a part), and Ipswich Hospital.

*Count of finished admission episodes where alcoholic liver disease (K70) or cirrhosis of the liver (K703, K717, K743, K744, K745, K746) were mentioned in any primary or secondary diagnosis field for selected trusts*

| | *Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RGT)** | | *Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust (RGQ)** | | *West Suffolk NHS Trust (RGR)** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Alcoholic liver disease* | *Cirrhosis of the liver* | *Alcoholic liver disease* | *Cirrhosis of the liver* | *Alcoholic liver disease* | *Cirrhosis of the liver* |
| 2005-06 | 701 | 681 | 157 | 98 | 83 | 85 |
| 2004-05 | 525 | 526 | 121 | 77 | 69 | 96 |
| 2003-04 | 643 | 889 | 140 | 86 | 85 | 92 |
| 2002-03 | 464 | 653 | 101 | 89 | 95 | 99 |
| 2001-02 | 418 | 475 | 102 | 63 | 64 | 59 |

*Notes:*
1. All diagnosis count of episodes: These figures represent a count of all finished admission episodes where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (7 prior to 2002-03 diagnosis field in a HES record).
2. ICD10 code used for Alcoholic Liver Disease = K70
ICD10 codes used for Cirrhosis of Liver:
K70.3 Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver
K71.7 Toxic liver disease with fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
K74.3 Primary biliary cirrhosis
K74.4 Secondary biliary cirrhosis
K74.5 Biliary cirrhosis, unspecified
K74.6 other and unspecified cirrhosis of liver
Code K70.3 is also included within the data for alcoholic liver disease. Do not add these figures together as this would cause double counting.
3. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected in the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing times series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
4. Data Quality: HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
5. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
6. Ungrossed Data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date is of each activity he has planned for next year to tackle excessive alcohol consumption; and what the expected cost is of each activity in each year for which expenditure is planned. [172466]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The start and end dates of planned activity to tackle excessive alcohol consumption next year are listed and described in detail with timescales in Annex B in The Government's renewed alcohol strategy, "Safe. Sensible. Social", published in June 2007. A copy is available in the Library.

The planned new actions and next steps involve a number of Government Departments as well as the national health service locally, and it is therefore not possible to fully set out expected costs.

The Department is spending £1.7 million in 2006-07 on the 'Know your Limits' campaign, which is a joint campaign with the Home Office who are contributing additional funding. In the case of the NHS, primary care trusts are responsible for delivering improvements to patient care, so spending on activity outlined in the strategy will be based on local decisions. We would also expect there to be scope for off-setting efficiency savings, for example from reduced hospital admissions.

## Arthritis

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure by *(a)* his Department's research and development budget and *(b)* the Medical Research Council on research into rheumatoid arthritis was in each year since 1997-98. [172910]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations.

Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a large number concerned with rheumatoid arthritis are available on the national research register at

www.nrr.nhs.uk

In addition, the Department's expenditure on national research programme projects specifically concerned with rheumatoid arthritis during this time has been as follows:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 59 |
| 1998-99 | 119 |
| 1999-2000 | 119 |
| 2000-01 | 136 |
| 2001-02 | 144 |
| 2002-03 | 67 |
| 2003-04 | nil |
| 2004-05 | 72 |
| 2005-06 | nil |
| 2006-07 | 36 |

Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" has led to an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. Work relevant to rheumatoid arthritis will for example be undertaken in several of the National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research Centres (BRC). The Cambridge BRC has a musculoskeletal disorders research theme to which £2.2 million has been allocated over five years; and the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust BRC has a rheumatology research theme for which the total budget over five years is £2.7 million.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC funds a large portfolio of research related to arthritis and rheumatism much of which will be of relevance to rheumatoid arthritis Available MRC expenditure figures for research relevant to arthritis and rheumatism are shown in the following table.

| | *Expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 4.8 |
| 2000-01 | 3.9 |
| 2001-02 | 4.2 |
| 2002-03 | 6.8 |
| 2003-04 | 6.8 |
| 2004-05 | 5.0 |
| 2005-06 . | 5.5 |

### Arthritis: Drugs

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis were dispensed in the community in each year since 1997; and at what net ingredient cost. [172908]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The main drugs that can be used to treat rheumatoid arthritis are listed at paragraphs 10.1.1 (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), 10.1.2 (Corticosteroids) and 10.1.3 (Rheumatic disease suppressant drugs) of the British National Formulary (BNF). The number of prescription items dispensed and associated net ingredient cost for drugs listed in these paragraphs are shown in the following tables. Some prescribing of these drugs will be for reasons other than rheumatoid arthritis (e.g. muscle strain) and there will be some prescribing from other areas of the BNF for the condition, e.g. BNF section 4.7 (Analgesics), which is not included.

*Prescription items dispensed in the community, in England*

*£000*

| | *BNF paragraph 10.1.1* | *BNF paragraph 10.1.2* | *BNF paragraph 10.1.3* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 18,195.4 | 475.0 | 576.6 | 19,247.0 |
| 1998 | 18,462.4 | 478.5 | 641.9 | 19,582.7 |
| 1999 | 18,688.6 | 482.1 | 721.7 | 19,892.3 |
| 2000 | 18,779.9 | 475.3 | 812.4 | 20,067.6 |
| 2001 | 19,414.2 | 451.0 | 925.2 | 20,790.4 |
| 2002 | 20,031.7 | 442.7 | 1,035.8 | 21,510.1 |
| 2003 | 20,595.8 | 447.6 | 1,147.0 | 22,190.5 |
| 2004 | 20,871.4 | 456.4 | 1,259.3 | 22,587.1 |
| 2005 | 18,454.8 | 487.1 | 1,400.1 | 20,342.0 |
| 2006 | 17,606.3 | 505.5 | 1,551.6 | 19,663.4 |

*Source:*
Prescription cost analysis (PCA) system

*Net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in the community, in England*

*£000*

| | *BNF paragraph 10.1.1* | *BNF paragraph 10.1.2* | *BNF paragraph 10.1.3* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 160,710.6 | 1,759.1 | 5,289.3 | 167,759.0 |
| 1998 | 157,926.1 | 1,761.6 | 6,338.6 | 166,026.3 |
| 1999 | 170,223.9 | 2,053.6 | 6,637.7 | 178,915.2 |
| 2000 | 176,094.4 | 1,966.2 | 5,981.3 | 184,042.0 |
| 2001 | 181,707.7 | 1,864.8 | 7,239.2 | 190,811.7 |
| 2002 | 204,807.2 | 1,945.8 | 8,242.6 | 214,995.7 |
| 2003 | 230,623.2 | 2,072.4 | 9,426.2 | 242,121.8 |
| 2004 | 246,596.5 | 2,119.2 | 11,837.6 | 260,552.4 |
| 2005 | 151,863.5 | 2,245.7 | 15,666.3 | 169,775.4 |
| 2006 | 144,810.9 | 2,341.7 | 19,155.7 | 166,308.4 |

*Source:*
PCA system

### Bacterial Diseases

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce mandatory reporting of cases of the health care associated infection pseudomonas. [167833]

**Ann Keen:** There are no plans to introduce mandatory reporting of cases of pseudomonas blood stream infections at present, but we will keep this under review.

### Breast Cancer: Screening

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS plans to use stereo mammography as a means of detecting breast cancer. [171857]

**Ann Keen:** Currently there are no plans to use stereo mammography in the national health service breast screening programme.

We would welcome any new technology that could improve the breast screening programme, however, this is a developing technology and we would need to consider the evidence of its effectiveness before it could be introduced into the screening programme.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means his Department plans to extend the NHS breast cancer screening programme to all women aged 47 to 73 years by 2012. [171894]

**Ann Keen:** The extension of the breast screening programme age range will start from April 2008 and will be managed by National Health Service cancer screening programmes in partnership with local health services.

As with the previous age extension, increasing the upper age range limit to 70 years, this will take several years to implement fully, as more staff will need to be recruited and trained and more equipment purchased. Full implementation is expected by the end of 2012.

The necessary phasing in of this expansion will be carefully considered to ensure that the most useful epidemiological data can be gathered to inform future decisions about the breast screening programme.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the ages of people to whom the *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* bowel cancer screening programmes apply. [171901]

**Ann Keen:** In March 2002 the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) evaluated the evidence on breast cancer screening. They concluded that trials have provided sufficient evidence for the screening of women between 50 and 69 years, and that the reduction in mortality from breast cancer among women who chose to participate in screening programmes was estimated to be about 35 per cent. The IARC working group consisted of 24 experts from 11 countries.

We now want to extend the breast screening programme so that more women benefit and even more lives are saved. At present women are invited for screening seven times at three yearly intervals between

50 and 70. Over time, this will be extended to nine screening rounds between 47 and 73 years with a guarantee that women will have their first screening invitation before the age of 50.

This extension was recommended by the Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) Breast Cancer Working Group, who carefully examined the emerging evidence on extending the programme below and above the current age ranges, and the recommendation was accepted by the CRS Advisory Board.

For bowel screening research undertaken in Nottingham and Funen in the 1980s showed that screening men and women aged 45 to 74 for bowel cancer using the faecal occult blood test (FOBt) could reduce the mortality rate from bowel cancer by 16 per cent. in those screened.

An independently evaluated pilot in Warwickshire and Scotland showed that this research can be replicated in an national health service setting. Based on the final evaluation report of the pilot and a formal options appraisal, the NHS bowel cancer screening programme in England is screening men and women aged 60 to 69.

As announced in the recently published cancer reform strategy, from 2010 we will be extending the screening age range for bowel cancer to invite men and women aged 70 to 75 years.

By the end of 2010, decisions will be taken about the possible roll out of bowel screening to people in their 50s, dependent on forthcoming research findings.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of lowering the entry level age of the breast cancer screening programme. [171902]

**Ann Keen:** The extension of the breast screening age range was recommended by the cancer reform strategy (CRS) Breast Cancer Working Group, which carefully examined the emerging evidence on extending the programme below and above the current age ranges, and the recommendation was accepted by the CRS Advisory Board.

The CRS Breast Cancer Working Group membership consisted of expert stakeholders, including clinicians, breast cancer charity representatives, researchers and patients.

By lowering the starting age for breast screening we will guarantee that women will have their first screening invitation before the age of 50.

### Cancer: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the planned start date is of the *(a)* National Cancer Survivorship Initiative and *(b)* National Cancer Equality Initiative; and what the expected cost is of each in each financial year for which estimates have been made. [172449]

**Ann Keen:** The National Cancer director will lead the new National Cancer Survivorship Initiative (NCSI) in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support and other cancer charities. The NCSI will consider a range of approaches to survivorship care and how these can best be tailored to meet individual patients' needs.

As part of this work, Macmillan Cancer Support will host a think tank event, Making the Cancer Survivorship Agenda a Reality, in March 2008. The key outcomes of the event will be to: identify key policy work streams and priorities; to agree stakeholder involvement for each of the policy work streams; and to produce a report outlining the outcome of the event for wider circulation.

The event will be co-chaired by the National Cancer director and the chief executive officer of Macmillan Cancer Support and will involve patients, health professionals, the voluntary sector, academics, research experts, international experts and Government.

In recognition of the challenge to reduce inequalities in cancer, the National Cancer director will begin a National Cancer Equality Initiative (NCEI), bringing together key stakeholders from the professions, voluntary sector, academia and equality groups to develop research proposals on cancer inequalities, test interventions and advise on the development of wider policy. The National Cancer director is currently discussing with key stakeholders how best to take the NCEI forward, and detailed work will begin in early 2008.

Both of these are new initiatives, and costs will emerge as the details of the initiatives are developed.

### Cancer: Medical Treatments

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means the NHS Cancer Reform Strategy will address inequalities between regions in cancer *(a)* diagnosis, *(b)* treatment and *(c)* survival rates. [171905]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS), published on 3 December 2007, and the Equality Impact Assessment published alongside the strategy, set out a comprehensive series of measures to address inequalities between regions in cancer diagnosis, treatment and survival rates.

Socio-economic deprivation has a marked impact on cancer outcomes. Cancer mortality is more than 15 per cent. higher in spearhead primary care trusts (PCTs) than the national average. To address this regional variation, along with tackling other cancer inequalities, the Department will begin a national cancer equality initiative (NCEI), which will develop research proposals on cancer inequalities, test interventions and advise on the development of wider policy.

The Department will work through the NCEI with strategic health authorities (SHAs) and PCTs to agree challenging goals for reducing cancer mortality in every cancer network area by 2012. The National Audit Office is funding a dedicated post in the Cancer Action Team to drive forward equity issues.

Other specific actions in the CRS to reduce regional inequalities include:

the Government will continue to invest in social marketing initiatives at the national level to support people to stop smoking, especially with the free support available from the national health service. Social marketing initiatives will be focussed towards groups in our community with the greatest smoking prevalence;

commissioners in PCTs with low coverage levels for cancer screening will wish to develop targeted programmes that increase the uptake of screening in poor communities. To incentivise services to encourage higher coverage for screening we will explore moving to an activity based system for funding screening services;

the Department is investing in a campaign that uses social marketing techniques to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of breast, lung and bowel cancers and to encourage people who think they might have cancer to seek help earlier in 20 of the most deprived areas; and

the National Cancer Director will repeat his evaluation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) -approved cancer drug usage during 2008 to ensure that patients across the country continue to have access to drugs positively appraised by NICE.

## Cancer: Screening

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the NHS Cancer Reform Strategy is expected to improve cancer detection in primary care. [171903]

**Ann Keen:** The Cancer Reform Strategy contains several actions that will improve cancer detection and recognises that primary care professionals have essential roles at all stages of the cancer care pathway, one of which being the diagnosis of cancer.

The main actions are:

*Establishing a national audit in primary care*

The audits will build on the 'significant events reviews' already being undertaken by many general practitioners and will focus on aspects such as the number of visits to primary care with relevant symptoms before referral to hospital (delay pattern analysis).

The resultant information will inform both local practice learning as well as the national audit. The audit will be undertaken collaboratively by the Royal College of General Practice and the National Patient Safety Agency.

*Establishing a national awareness and early diagnosis initiative*

Some good work to raise cancer symptom awareness and encourage early presentation is already under way. The initiative, led by the National Cancer Director, will provide co-ordinated support to local health services to deliver effective interventions.

The initiative will also develop key cancer messages for both health professionals and the public. The messages will be developed over the course of 2008-09.

*Improving access to diagnostics*

This is the single most important priority in primary care. The strategy sets out the mechanisms, such as developing and agreeing local protocols and commissioning diagnostic providers, that need to be put in place to improve access and increase capacity of diagnostic services.

This issue also forms an important component of the national health service Next Stage Review, which is being conducted by Lord Darzi. The review is due to be published in the summer 2008.

## Care Homes

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of private sector care homes are owned by companies who own more than one home; [166867]

(2) how many *(a)* private, *(b)* public and *(c)* voluntary sector care homes for the elderly were subject to regulation and inspection by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each of the last five years. [166868]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have been informed by the chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it does not collect information on the proportion of private sector care homes owned by companies which own more than one home. CSCI inspects and regulates each individual service and not the organisation running the home.

The following table shows counts of the numbers of care homes regulated against the Care Homes Regulations 2001 and National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Care Homes for Older People year on year (which will be less than the total numbers of homes registered).

| | *Type of home* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at 31 March* | *Private* | *Local authority* | *Voluntary* | *NHS* | *Other*[1] |
| 2006-07 | 8,617 | 783 | 1,035 | 15 | 115 |
| 2005-06 | 8,642 | 828 | 1,093 | 13 | 95 |
| 2004-05 | 8,796 | 871 | 1,095 | 14 | 89 |
| 2003-04 | 9,020 | 915[3] | 1,130 | 13 | 89 |
| 2002-03 | 8,768 | 158[3] | 1,037 | 10 | 76 |

[1] CSCI inspects homes against the NMS for Care Homes for Younger Adults (aged 18-64) or the NMS for Care Homes for Older People. Homes are classified by CSCI as homes for younger adults or for older people depending on the set of NMS against which they are inspected. The decision about the set of standards used is based on the relative numbers of older people (aged 65 plus) or younger adults (aged 18-64) resident at the time of inspection.

*Notes:*

1. Homes chose how they are classified during the registration process. "Other" includes any form of ownership not covered by the principal four categories.

2. When the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) database was established in 2002, the process of registration of homes was staggered. Local authority services were registered after private and voluntary services. The increase in numbers between 2002-03 and 2003-04 does not represent an increase in homes, but in the number registered with NCSC.

*Source:*

CSCI Registration and Inspection database.

## Care Homes: Closures

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes in Suffolk have closed in the last five years. [169571]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Data on care home closures prior to 2002 is not held centrally. We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the number of homes de-registered in Suffolk since 2002-03 were as shown in the following table. De-registration is not the same as closure. It includes not only homes permanently closed, but also temporary closures, for example, while refurbishment takes place or while a new manager is appointed.

*Number of care homes de-registered in Suffolk*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 18 |
| 2003-04 | 40 |
| 2004-05 | 11 |
| 2005-06 | 27 |
| 2006-07 | 18 |
| Total | 114 |

*Source:*

CSCI Registration and Inspection database 2007 (data as at 4 November 2007).

### Care Homes: Finance

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will fund a trial of a partnership model for funding social care in East Sussex. [165826]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department has no plans to fund a trial of a partnership model for funding social care in East Sussex.

### Care Homes: Inspections

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Commission for Social Care Inspection is required to undertake a new inspection of a care home when the registered manager of a care provider changes. [172054]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Before a person is registered to manage any service regulated by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), they must complete the application process. This will not necessarily involve an inspection of the care home in question, but it ensures that new managers are positively approved in their personal capacity before becoming registered and starting work.

All registered persons are required, under Regulation 39 of the Care Homes Regulations 2001, to notify CSCI when a manager of the service in question is to leave, or if a new manager is to be appointed. CSCI may respond to notifications in any way it chooses, and will decide on what action to take in relation to a change of manager depending on what is already known about the service in question. In some cases, CSCI may decide it is appropriate to visit the service in question.

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will review the *(a)* efficacy and *(b)* effect on service users of the new inspection methodology introduced in April 2006 by the Commission for Social Care Inspection; and if he will ensure that such a review includes a comparative assessment of care inspection frequency in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. [172166]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) operates at arms length from Government. It is for CSCI to evaluate any changes to its inspection methodology.

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered nursing inspectors were available to inspect nursing and care homes in England in each of the last five years. [172939]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it does not collect annual figures on the number of registered nurses working as inspectors. However, CSCI carried out a data verification project on the skills and experience of its staff in May 2005. This project, which not every member of staff chose to participate in, revealed that at least 318 inspectors had nursing experience or skills at that time.

CSCI is to commence a new such verification project in 2008. It estimates that there are currently at least 300 CSCI inspectors who have an active nursing qualification. Where possible, CSCI will assign inspectors with a nursing background to inspect nursing homes.

### Children: Exercise

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the National School Pedometer Programme; how much is planned to be spent; what estimate he has made of pedometer use by children; and what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of such use in tackling obesity. [171691]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department is spending £494,000 on the 'Schools on the Move' National School Pedometer Programme in 2007-08. Our spending plans beyond this financial year are yet to be finalised. The Department also contributed £98,500 to the piloting of the Programme.

A full evaluation of the pilot was undertaken by the London Institute for Sport, Middlesex university, in September 2006. During the pilot year, step counts increased steadily from an average of 8,355 steps at baseline to an average of 16,436 in the 28 week (97 per cent. increase). The pilot found that students' intention to maintain their walking levels was optimistic as 35 per cent. reported that they 'definitely' will maintain their walking during the next 12 months. Most students (51 per cent.) reported that since the beginning of the school year they had increased their physical activity levels. We are confident that the increases in physical activity it produced are likely to have an important impact on energy balance, helping to reduce levels of obesity.

### Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [172970]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of people diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis is not collected.

### Commission for Social Care Inspection: Manpower

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the inspections carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in the last 12 months were carried out by locum inspectors; and what training is received by locum inspectors from the Commission for Social Care Inspection before they are deployed. [172118]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The total number of inspections completed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) between 1 December 2006 and 1 December 2007 was 28,116. 293 of these inspections were carried out by locum inspectors, which equates to 1.04 per cent. of inspections for this period.

The majority of locum inspectors are retired inspectors. Training for locum inspectors varies according to region and the requirements of the individual, which will depend on their requirements and previous experience.

## Community Care

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the costs of providing community care *(a)* in people's own homes and *(b)* at a single central location in rural areas; [172280]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the costs of providing community care in people's own homes in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas; [172281]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* time spent by and *(b)* costs of healthcare professionals travelling to provide community care in homes in (i) rural and (ii) urban areas. [172289]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Government's policy is to support people in their own homes for as long as possible, where it is safe to do so and when it accords with their wishes and assessed needs.

No estimate has been made of the costs of providing social care services in people's own homes or at a single central location in rural areas. Local councils are responsible for providing or arranging social care services in people's own homes. Councils have considerable freedom to manage and direct their own resources and the Department does not direct them how best to do so.

No estimate has been made centrally of time spent by and costs of healthcare professionals travelling to provide community care in homes in rural and urban areas. It is for primary care trusts, in partnership with local authorities and other local stakeholders, to assess the needs of their local communities and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing the needs of the local population, including the provision of community care services.

## Community Care: Direct Payments

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in direct payments under the Fair Access to Care Services scheme in the last 12 months, broken down by local authority area; how much of this has not been spent; and if he will make a statement. [169738]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The following table shows the gross expenditure spent on direct payments under the fair access to care services scheme in 2005-06, broken down by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in England. The figures in this table give details on direct payments spent on adults aged 18 and over who fall under the eligibility criteria of the fair access to care services scheme.

Information on how much has not been spent is not centrally available.

*Gross expenditure spent on direct payments split by client group and councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in 2005-06*

*£000*

| | *Older people aged 65 or over* | *Adults aged 18-64 with a physical disability or sensory impairment* | *Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities* | *Adults aged 18-64 with mental health needs* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 67,757 | 158,860 | 42,181 | 5,443 | 274,241 |
| Cumbria | 618 | 1,215 | 272 | 71 | 2,176 |
| Northumberland | 564 | 570 | 435 | 2 | 1,571 |
| Gateshead | 164 | 567 | 39 | 12 | 782 |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne | 178 | 820 | 311 | 21 | 1,331 |
| North Tyneside | 199 | 465 | 174 | 5 | 843 |
| South Tyneside | 197 | 466 | 176 | 75 | 914 |
| Sunderland | 312 | 233 | 207 | 21 | 773 |
| Hartlepool Unitary Authority (UA) | 119 | 158 | 39 | 18 | 334 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 249 | 379 | 234 | 35 | 897 |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 179 | 537 | 299 | 10 | 1,024 |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | 104 | 484 | 197 | 81 | 866 |
| Durham | 543 | 772 | 1,236 | 35 | 2,586 |
| Darlington UA | 97 | 554 | 269 | 24 | 944 |
| Barnsley | 184 | 381 | 212 | 12 | 789 |
| Doncaster | 288 | 817 | 103 | 0 | 1,208 |
| Rotherham | 413 | 679 | 105 | 98 | 1,295 |
| Sheffield | 791 | 2,078 | 464 | 57 | 3,390 |
| Bradford | 526 | 801 | 202 | 58 | 1,587 |
| Calderdale | 311 | 945 | 236 | 0 | 1,492 |
| Kirklees | 60 | 862 | 365 | 26 | 1,313 |
| Leeds | 371 | 1,008 | 25 | 65 | 1,469 |
| Wakefield | 482 | 1,238 | 262 | 7 | 1,989 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 301 | 1,090 | 199 | 111 | 1,701 |
| Kingston Upon Hull UA | 201 | 378 | 90 | 21 | 689 |

*Gross expenditure spent on direct payments split by client group and councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in 2005-06*

£000

| | Older people aged 65 or over | Adults aged 18-64 with a physical disability or sensory impairment | Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities | Adults aged 18-64 with mental health needs | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East Lincolnshire UA | 91 | 472 | 75 | 16 | 654 |
| North Lincolnshire UA | 109 | 293 | 0 | 5 | 407 |
| North Yorkshire | 161 | 1,092 | 215 | 16 | 1,484 |
| York UA | 33 | 277 | 250 | 0 | 561 |
| Bolton | 255 | 963 | 244 | 19 | 1,481 |
| Bury | 80 | 242 | 185 | 0 | 507 |
| Manchester | 936 | 2,273 | 350 | 30 | 3,589 |
| Oldham | 172 | 794 | 266 | 200 | 1,432 |
| Rochdale | 198 | 615 | 21 | 17 | 851 |
| Salford | 473 | 649 | 295 | 19 | 1,436 |
| Stockport | 216 | 642 | 339 | 26 | 1,224 |
| Tameside | 246 | 495 | 103 | 66 | 910 |
| Trafford | 564 | 682 | 112 | 27 | 1,385 |
| Wigan | 157 | 660 | 446 | 15 | 1,278 |
| Knowsley | 181 | 435 | 459 | 6 | 1,081 |
| Liverpool | 805 | 624 | 524 | 81 | 2,034 |
| Sefton | 479 | 1,020 | 209 | 34 | 1,742 |
| St. Helens | 475 | 497 | 304 | 1 | 1,277 |
| Wirral | 329 | 950 | 332 | 44 | 1,655 |
| Cheshire | 754 | 2,063 | 785 | 160 | 3,762 |
| Halton UA | 178 | 472 | 398 | 47 | 1,095 |
| Warrington UA | 255 | 707 | 263 | 23 | 1,249 |
| Lancashire | 1,101 | 4,440 | 609 | 39 | 6,189 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 318 | 416 | 325 | 27 | 1,086 |
| Blackpool UA | 256 | 389 | 113 | 19 | 111 |
| Warwickshire | 378 | 1,697 | 181 | 12 | 2,268 |
| Birmingham | 2,425 | 3,378 | 877 | 21 | 6,702 |
| Coventry | 623 | 2,625 | 746 | 169 | 4,163 |
| Dudley | 149 | 173 | 211 | 23 | 556 |
| Sandwell | 61 | 116 | 35 | 11 | 223 |
| Solihull | 258 | 304 | 129 | 0 | 691 |
| Walsall | 419 | 635 | 314 | 19 | 1,387 |
| Wolverhampton | 438 | 578 | 74 | 6 | 1,095 |
| Staffordshire | 582 | 1,319 | 462 | 14 | 2,377 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 235 | 791 | 175 | 144 | 1,345 |
| Herefordshire UA | 312 | 938 | 105 | 14 | 1,369 |
| Worcestershire | 382 | 1,146 | 384 | 6 | 1,917 |
| Shropshire | 350 | 1,106 | 391 | 2 | 1,850 |
| Telford and the Wrekin UA | 126 | 387 | 136 | 0 | 649 |
| Lincolnshire | 599 | 1,601 | 473 | 23 | 2,696 |
| Northamptonshire | 928 | 1,800 | 220 | 143 | 3,091 |
| Derbyshire | 993 | 2,586 | 523 | 30 | 4,132 |
| Derby UA | 518 | 1,240 | 76 | 22 | 1,856 |
| Leicestershire | 397 | 1,799 | 330 | 153 | 2,679 |
| Leicester UA | 175 | 1,147 | 126 | 30 | 1,479 |
| Rutland UA | 56 | 126 | 0 | 1 | 183 |
| Nottinghamshire | 555 | 3,008 | 760 | 47 | 4,370 |
| Nottingham UA | 253 | 1,199 | 64 | 21 | 1,537 |
| Hertfordshire | 888 | 2,818 | 323 | 45 | 4,074 |
| Norfolk | 908 | 2,797 | 549 | 150 | 4,404 |
| Oxfordshire | 1,131 | 1,341 | 1,289 | 27 | 3,787 |
| Suffolk | 1,093 | 1,249 | 825 | 52 | 3,219 |
| Bedfordshire | 367 | 734 | 120 | 9 | 1,230 |
| Luton UA | 150 | 300 | 147 | 8 | 605 |
| Buckinghamshire | 870 | 1,355 | 191 | 65 | 2,481 |
| Milton Keynes UA | 174 | 541 | 104 | 0 | 819 |
| Bracknell Forest UA | 27 | 170 | 37 | 6 | 240 |
| West Berkshire UA | 110 | 181 | 95 | 0 | 385 |
| Reading UA | 127 | 369 | 94 | 0 | 590 |

*Gross expenditure spent on direct payments split by client group and councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in 2005-06*

*£000*

|  | *Older people aged 65 or over* | *Adults aged 18-64 with a physical disability or sensory impairment* | *Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities* | *Adults aged 18-64 with mental health needs* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Slough UA | 161 | 212 | 158 | 0 | 531 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead UA | 98 | 273 | 36 | 28 | 435 |
| Wokingham UA | 157 | 285 | 86 | 2 | 531 |
| Essex | 6,272 | 7,626 | 3,851 | 602 | 18,351 |
| Southend-on-Sea UA | 81 | 455 | 173 | 17 | 727 |
| Thurrock UA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cambridgeshire | 695 | 2,174 | 540 | 97 | 3,506 |
| Peterborough UA | 103 | 443 | 37 | 16 | 599 |
| Camden | 968 | 1,205 | 3 | 1 | 2,178 |
| Greenwich | 481 | 1,811 | 420 | 34 | 2,746 |
| Hackney | 540 | 912 | 242 | 35 | 1,729 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 384 | 1,026 | 143 | 35 | 1,588 |
| Islington | 483 | 1,654 | 235 | 15 | 2,388 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 475 | 409 | 39 | 12 | 935 |
| Lambeth | 259 | 1,678 | 517 | 0 | 2,454 |
| Lewisham | 135 | 814 | 30 | 6 | 985 |
| Southwark | 488 | 1,008 | 149 | 11 | 1,656 |
| Tower Hamlets | 149 | 1,053 | 220 | 5 | 1,427 |
| Wandsworth | 244 | 406 | 43 | 13 | 706 |
| Westminster | 427 | 829 | 247 | 25 | 1,528 |
| City of London | 23 | 205 | 0 | 0 | 228 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 761 | 1,081 | 101 | 2 | 1,945 |
| Barnet | 1,039 | 1,502 | 313 | 3 | 2,857 |
| Bexley | 60 | 387 | 75 | 10 | 532 |
| Brent | 172 | 806 | 136 | 6 | 1,120 |
| Bromley | 208 | 218 | 65 | 16 | 507 |
| Croydon | 611 | 1,085 | 268 | 101 | 2,065 |
| Ealing | 927 | 1,443 | 488 | 2 | 2,860 |
| Enfield | 575 | 891 | 321 | 25 | 1,812 |
| Haringey | 377 | 930 | 0 | 18 | 1,325 |
| Harrow | 396 | 791 | 102 | 0 | 1,289 |
| Havering | 148 | 756 | 46 | 5 | 955 |
| Hillingdon | 284 | 1,588 | 169 | 68 | 2,108 |
| Hounslow | 637 | 837 | 206 | 46 | 1,726 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 349 | 735 | 60 | 38 | 1,182 |
| Merton | 172 | 373 | 66 | 5 | 616 |
| Newham | 221 | 388 | 372 | 109 | 1,090 |
| Redbridge | 217 | 804 | 135 | 13 | 1,169 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 544 | 1,050 | 135 | 1 | 1,730 |
| Sutton | 151 | 360 | 32 | 0 | 543 |
| Waltham Forest | 141 | 740 | 144 | 7 | 1,032 |
| Isle of Wight UA | 713 | 332 | 81 | 13 | 1,139 |
| Surrey | 1,474 | 3,082 | 398 | 117 | 5,071 |
| West Sussex | 529 | 2,997 | 1,478 | 82 | 5,086 |
| Dorset | 341 | 1,166 | 255 | 0 | 1,762 |
| Bournemouth UA | 482 | 709 | 188 | 0 | 1,379 |
| Poole UA | 94 | 380 | 147 | 6 | 627 |
| Hampshire | 3,057 | 4,615 | 858 | 154 | 8,684 |
| Portsmouth UA | 127 | 599 | 72 | 0 | 798 |
| Southampton UA | 449 | 1,107 | 248 | 55 | 1,859 |
| East Sussex | 433 | 2,110 | 320 | 56 | 2,920 |
| Brighton and Hove UA | 382 | 586 | 35 | 4 | 1,007 |
| Wiltshire | 729 | 1,637 | 706 | 100 | 3,172 |
| Swindon UA | 78 | 607 | 67 | 0 | 751 |
| Kent | 1,576 | 3,528 | 658 | 14 | 5,776 |
| Medway Towns UA | 118 | 732 | 107 | 0 | 957 |
| Cornwall | 207 | 689 | 145 | 14 | 1,055 |
| Gloucestershire | 352 | 231 | 217 | 4 | 804 |
| Somerset | 716 | 2,317 | 108 | 11 | 3,152 |

*Gross expenditure spent on direct payments split by client group and councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in 2005-06*

*£000*

| | *Older people aged 65 or over* | *Adults aged 18-64 with a physical disability or sensory impairment* | *Adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities* | *Adults aged 18-64 with mental health needs* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Isles of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bath and North East Somerset UA | 204 | 501 | 87 | 37 | 829 |
| Bristol UA | 47 | 2,835 | 257 | 58 | 3,198 |
| North Somerset UA | 101 | 1,003 | 426 | 2 | 1,533 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 108 | 1,462 | 350 | 197 | 2,117 |
| Devon | 1,245 | 2,174 | 310 | 10 | 3,739 |
| Plymouth UA | 190 | 344 | 148 | 3 | 685 |
| Torbay UA | 63 | 661 | 167 | 3 | 894 |

*Source:*
PSSEX1

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how often local authorities are required to carry out a review into the distribution of direct payments under the Fair Access to Care Services scheme; and if he will make a statement; [169739]

(2) which local authorities have carried out a review into the distribution of direct payments under the Fair Access to Care Services scheme in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [169740]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Local authorities are not required to carry out a review into the distribution of direct payments under the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS). FACS is a framework that councils should use to help them determine if individuals are eligible for support. If an individual is eligible, support may be provided as a direct payment or as a service arranged or provided directly by the council.

Local authorities are expected to keep the distribution of direct payments across client groups under review as part of their local performance management arrangements. An annual assessment of performance on direct payments is included as one of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's (CSCI) Social Services Performance Assessment Framework Indicators for adults. This forms part of the information CSCI uses in its evidence based judgments on star ratings.

### Departmental Responsibilities: Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect his departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [164696]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: The importance of the climate change agenda is well understood and it is recognised that to tackle climate change, not only do we have to reduce greenhouse gases, but we must also adapt to the impacts we are already experiencing and will continue to experience over the coming decades due to the inertia in the system.

Climate impacts affect many departmental responsibilities. We have worked closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to develop the adaptation sections of the Climate Change Bill, which will require Government to assess the risks climate change poses to the United Kingdom—including to public health and the health estate—and to develop a programme to respond to those risks. The first risk assessment will be due three years after Royal Assent (around 2011) with the programme being published shortly afterwards. We have also worked with other Departments on the development of the Adaptation Policy Framework which will be published in spring 2008, setting out the Government's programme of action on climate impacts.

In May 2007, the Department published an update of their 2001 report "The Health Effects of Climate Change" for comment. This is being finalised for publication later this year.

The Department has a national heat wave plan in place, which is evaluated and updated annually to ensure that the best available evidence is used to reduce the ill effects of heat-waves. The plan and supporting guidance are circulated to emergency planners and relevant stakeholders in May each year.

On flooding, the Department's emergency preparedness division continues to work across the health economy in partnership with other agencies and Departments to ensure improved resilience of patient services, including national health service infrastructure and health supply chains, and the preparedness of the service to respond to major flooding incidents. Closer work will be needed between the NHS and the Environment Agency to mitigate the affects of flooding in the longer term.

Protection from skin cancers, sunburn and cataracts caused by ultraviolet radiation will rely heavily on public health messages building, for example, on the Department's current collaboration with Cancer-Research UK for the SunSmart campaign.

Although winter deaths are likely to decline, the Department's Keep Warm Keep Well campaign provides annual advice to vulnerable people (mainly older people and also disabled people and families on low incomes) on how to keep themselves and their homes warm in the winter.

The UK recognises that the potential health impact of climate change also requires global action. To this end, the UK has successfully arranged for an agenda item on 'climate change and health' to be included on the agenda of the forthcoming World Health Organisation Executive Board in January 2008. Our aim is to raise awareness of the health implications of climate change among health ministries and professionals and promote practical and sustainable action nationally and internationally to respond to these. Discussion at the Executive Board will enable member states to focus on planning and developing adaptation policies. The UK is also engaged with the European Union on their recent Green Paper on Adaptation.

### Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hours per week a full-time equivalent staff member is expected to work for each of the groups listed in paragraph 3.4 on page 20 of his Department's evidence to the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration. [163380]

**Ann Keen:** The number of hours expected of each staff group depends on the employment contract by which they are bound.

Each contract type has a basic number of hours per week, listed as follows for each of the staff groups. In addition to these basic contracted hours, employers and individual staff can agree to contract for additional hours.

| *Staff group* | *Basic contract hours (per week)* |
|---|---|
| Consultants | 40 |
| Associate specialists | 38.5 |
| Staff grades | 40 |
| Junior doctors | [1]— |
| General Practitioners (GP) registrars | 40 |
| GP | [2]— |
| Salaried GPs | 37.5 |

[1] The basic contract is 40 hours

[2] The majority of GPs are independent contractors and can therefore decide what hours they work. However they do need to make sure that the business needs meet the GP contract.

### Doctors: Housing

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the tax liabilities of junior doctors receiving *(a)* partially and *(b)* fully subsidised hospital accommodation. [164577]

**Ann Keen:** The issue of fully subsidised hospital accommodation had been discussed from time to time over a number of years between officials from the Department, HM Revenue and Customs (and its predecessor) and representatives of NHS Employers. Agreement was reached in August 2007 that the exemption from income tax in respect of provided living accommodation will continue to apply to junior doctors who are employed at Foundation House Officer 1 grade on contracts that are effective for the year commencing 1 August 2007. No discussions have taken place relating to partially subsidised accommodation.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 714W, on doctors: housing, if he will place in the Library the relevant sections of the guidance within the Terms and Conditions for Employment for Junior Doctors on the application of charges for accommodation provided through hospital channels. [172010]

**Ann Keen:** NHS Employers are responsible for the terms and conditions of service for junior doctors. An extract of the paragraphs (173 to 178), covering charges for accommodation for junior doctors has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 714W, on Doctors: Housing, when the guidance within the terms and conditions for employment for junior doctors on the application of charges for accommodation provided through hospital channels was last updated. [172011]

**Ann Keen:** NHS Employers issued guidance in August 2007 to trusts following the changes to the Medical Act 1983 which came into effect on 1 August 2007.

### Doctors: Training

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the competition ratio for training posts for registrar group doctors was in 2007, broken down by region and specialty. [165685]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not have this information for the whole of the 2007 recruitment because the national Medical Training Application Service computer system was not used for applicants in Round 2. However, we published the competition ratios for Round 1 earlier in the year and these are available on the Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) website at: www.mmc.nhs.uk

### Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust: Industrial Disputes

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to resolve the dispute between maintenance craft workers and Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Trust. [165434]

**Ann Keen:** The Secretary of State has no locus to direct the trust in this matter given its status as a National Health Service Foundation Trust.

### Drugs: Death

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died from drug overdoses while on the waiting list to receive hard drug substitutes in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [170667]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Eating Disorders: Children

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts provide specialist eating disorder services for those aged under 13 years. [172782]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not collected centrally.

We take the issue of eating disorders, especially among young people, very seriously. This is why the Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce a clinical guideline on the core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders, and which NICE published in 2004. The guideline covers physical and psychological treatments, treatment with medicines, and information specifically for patients, carers and the public. NICE will commence a review of this guideline in January 2008.

As primary care trusts consider local health needs and commissioned services, they will need to assess whether the right balance exists between in-patient care and home-based care, particularly at a highly specialised levels, to help individuals with eating disorders.

### Elderly: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends to provide any incentives to *(a)* GPs, *(b)* district nurses and *(c)* other professionals in primary care settings to provide nutritional screening for older people in line with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) guidelines, as referred to on page 35 of his Department's document, Improving Nutritional Care; and for what reasons he does not expect (i) GPs, (ii) district nurses and (iii) other professionals in primary care settings to provide nutritional screening for adults of all ages. [170058]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** There is no intention to nationally provide new or additional incentives for general practitioners (GPs), nurses, or other health professionals to deliver nutritional screening for older people. Prioritisation is a matter for primary care trusts (PCTs) who would need to pay for any local incentive scheme. However, one aim of the Agenda for Change pay system, introduced in 2003-04 for the majority of non-medical national health service staff, was to establish a framework within which PCTs could incentivise delivery of local priorities through rigorous job evaluation, which enables remuneration based on skills and experience, better training opportunities linked to pay progression and use of recruitment and retention premia to attract difficult to recruit skills.

Older patients regularly see their GP or other member of the primary care team. On average, over-75s see their GP at least six times a year, and as part of GPs' essential services, elderly patients' general health would be assessed as part of their regular ongoing treatment within these visits.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members of his Department's Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board are. [170059]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Membership of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board is being decided and details will be published in due course.

### Females: Conferences

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Ministers from his Department *(a)* attended and *(b)* spoke at the Women Deliver conference held in London from 18 to 20 October; whether his Department contributed (i) direct funding, (ii) informal support and (iii) personnel; whether officials from his Department (A) attended and (B) participated; what discussions his Department had with the Department for International Development on this conference; and if he will make a statement. [172422]

**Ann Keen:** No Department Ministers attended the Women Deliver conference. Dr. Gwyneth Lewis, the National Clinical Lead for Maternal Health and Maternity Services, attended as an observer and represented the Department. No other support was given by the Department for the event.

The Government lead for the conference lay with the Department for International Development and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development opened the conference.

### Fibromyalgia

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with meningitis in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [172969]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number of people diagnosed with meningitis in South Tyneside , North east England and England in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table. Information is not collected by constituency.

*Statutory notifications of meningitis*

| *Area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Tyneside[1] | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| North East England | 115 | 77 | 76 | 95 | 104 | 72 | 51 | 50 | 65 | 80 |
| England | 2,144 | 1,925 | 1,916 | 2,251 | 2,431 | 1,449 | 1,387 | 1,186 | 1,271 | 1,406 |

[1] South Tyneside figures are also included in the North England and the England total

*Source:*

Health Protection Agency

### Health Services: Disadvantaged

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to reduce health inequalities between the richest and poorest quartiles of the population since 1997. [169329]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Health inequalities targets are not set and monitored in terms of the richest and poorest quartiles of the population.

This Government have introduced the most comprehensive programme ever seen in this country to address health inequalities, including the first national public service agreement (PSA) targets to reduce inequalities as measured by infant mortality (by socio-economic classification) and life expectancy (by geographical area) by 10 per cent. by 2010.

National initiatives to deliver the PSA include:

putting a cross-government national health inequalities strategy in place to deliver the 2010 target, complemented by programmes such as NHS Health Trainers, NHS Life Check and Communities for Health;

launching the Health Inequalities Intervention Tool in August 2007; and

reviewing the success of the Inequalities Infant Mortality PSA target and committing to publish an implementation plan/good practice guidance shortly

Action to tackle health inequalities was strengthened further by the Secretary of State's announcement last September that the Department will publish a comprehensive strategy next year for reducing health inequalities. This will address unjustified gaps in health status, fair access to national health service services for everyone and good outcomes of care for all.

## Heart Diseases: Health Services

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plan to take to increase the availability of cardiac rehabilitation services. [173703]

**Ann Keen:** The provision of cardiac rehabilitation services is a matter for the local national health service, working in partnership with stakeholders and the local community. It is for NHS organisations to plan and develop services based on their specific local knowledge and expertise.

A new National Cardiac Rehabilitation Audit has been introduced across England, jointly sponsored by the British Heart Foundation and the Healthcare Commission. This will provide stronger evidence on effectiveness and encourage local areas to appraise and improve their provision of cardiac rehabilitation.

Furthermore, in July 2007, a British Heart Foundation-led campaign with the British Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation was launched, which together with the audit will raise the profile of rehabilitation and give impetus to the provision of rehabilitation services.

## HIV Infection: Research

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to encourage scientific research into HIV since 1997. [170159]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government encourages scientific research into HIV through long-standing partnerships between the Department of Health, the Department for International Development (DfID) and the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC receives its funding through the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills.

The Department has since 1986 supported a research programme on sexual health and HIV. The programme is managed on its behalf by the MRC, with advice from the Sexual Health and HIV Research Strategy Committee[1]. In this way, the MRC is able to co-ordinate the work of the programme with its broader portfolio of national and international research on sexual health and HIV that aims to address the two challenges of protection from HIV transmission and treatment of those affected.

The Committee identifies research needs and priorities, stimulates new research, and advises on the value and relevance to the programme of proposals submitted to it for funding. Studies on HIV epidemiology, prevention and treatment have been a major part of the programme. Currently, around half of the studies funded are concerned with HIV, or HIV in the context of sexually transmitted infection more generally.

Other joint initiatives supporting and encouraging research on HIV include the MRC/DFID DART trial, one of the largest trials in Africa to evaluate two strategic approaches for the management of Antiretroviral Therapies; and the MRC/DFID Microbicides Development Programme, a partnership between the United Kingdom and sub-Saharan Africa to develop vaginal microbicides for the prevention of transmission of HIV infection.

Internationally, the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), which involves 16 European countries and 46 sub-Saharan African countries, aims to develop new clinical interventions to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

## HIV Infection: Young People

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to educate young people about HIV infection since 1997. [170158]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

Teaching about safer sex is one of the Government's key strategies for reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The Department issued its "Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Guidance" to all maintained schools in July 2000. Prior to this the basic requirements for sex education were covered by the 1996 Education Act. The guidance took account of the revised national curriculum published in 1999 and was developed in discussion with key stakeholders to make sure it covered all relevant issues. It sets out the framework within which schools should provide effective SRE at each of the four key stages. At secondary school level SRE should prepare young people for an adult life in which (among other things) they can:

be aware of their sexuality and understand human sexuality;

understand the reasons for having protected sex;

have sufficient information to protect themselves from HIV and other STIs.

The position has been further reinforced following the recent review of the secondary curriculum undertaken—at the request of the Department—by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. SRE will continue to place a strong emphasis on sexual activity, HIV and other STIs, and how high-risk behaviours affect the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities.

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[1] This Committee was established in 2002 when it replaced the Committee for the Epidemiological Study of AIDS.

## Hospital Beds

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether changes have been made to *(a)* the definition of the term delayed discharges and *(b)* the procedures in determining a delayed discharge since the implementation of the Delayed Discharges Act 2003; and if he will make a statement. [171843]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: Guidance on the implementation of the Community Care (Delayed Discharges etc) Act 2003, including the definition of and procedures for notifying delayed discharges was issued on 24 September 2003 as Health Service Circular, HSC 2003/009 and Local Authority Circular, LAC (2003) 21. This guidance is still current and has not been amended.

## Hospital Beds: East Anglia

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed spaces there were on average at *(a)* Addenbrookes, *(b)* West Suffolk and *(c)* Ipswich hospitals in (i) 1997, (ii) 2002 and (iii) at the latest time for which figures are available. [167527]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The following table shows the average available and occupied beds for Addenbrooke's Hospital National Health Service Trust, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust and West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust in 1996-07, 2001-02 and 2006-07.

| | *1996-07* | | *2001-02* | | *2006-07* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Org name* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* | *Available beds* | *Occupied beds* |
| Addenbrooke's NHS Trust[1] | 1,287 | 1,135 | 1,280 | 1,102 | 1,048 | 912 |
| Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | 816 | 638 | 769 | 644 | 700 | 594 |
| West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust | 685 | 506 | 679 | 566 | 494 | 413 |

[1] Addenbrooke's NHS Trust became Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in July 2004

*Source:*

Department of Health form KH03

## Hospital Beds: Eastern Region

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital beds there were in each primary care trust area in the East of England in each year since 1997. [170127]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the average available beds for national health service trusts in the East of England between 1997 and 2007 (latest data available).

*Average daily available beds for NHS trusts in the East of England between 1997 and 2007. In 2000-01, East Hertfordshire NHS Trust and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust merged to form East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust. In 2000-01, Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust and St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust merged to form West Hertfordshire NHS Trust. Present trust names used only—for all trust name changes, refer to following notes*

| *Org code* | *Organisation* | *1996-07* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RDD | Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 675 | 662 | 613 | 614 | 627 | 646.94 | 627 | 652 | 652 | 662 | 663.79 |
| RC1 | Bedford Hospital NHS Trust | 476 | 455 | 459 | 450 | 451 | 459.67 | 471.9 | 525.36 | 511.64 | 433 | 431 |
| RGT | Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 1,287 | 1,302 | 1,277 | 1,257 | 1,269 | 1,280 | 1,026 | 1,034 | 1,032 | 1,068 | 1,048 |
| RWH | East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | — | — | — | — | 1,289 | 1173.5 | 1126.3 | 1049.2 | 1054.9 | 1,077 | 1,066 |
| RC4 | East Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 646 | 622 | 603 | 600 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| RAQ | North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 653 | 641 | 676 | 674 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| RDE | Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | 755 | 723 | 752 | 750 | 764 | 754.35 | 834 | 701.08 | 643 | 660 | 666.87 |
| RQQ | Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust | 397 | 397 | 389 | 389 | 417 | 416.75 | 350.24 | 342.65 | 337.79 | 293.03 | [illegible] |

*Average daily available beds for NHS trusts in the East of England between 1997 and 2007. In 2000-01, East Hertfordshire NHS Trust and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust merged to form East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust. In 2000-001, Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust and St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust merged to form West Hertfordshire NHS Trust. Present trust names used only—for all trust name changes, refer to following notes*

| *Org code* | *Organisation* | *1996-07* | *1997-08* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RGQ | Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | 816 | 761 | 738 | 733 | 781 | 769.21 | 766.62 | 782 | 755.71 | 746.44 | 699.59 |
| RGP | James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 479 | 521 | 530 | 546 | 540 | 550.76 | 552.28 | 550.29 | 568.61 | 566.49 | 507.68 |
| RC9 | Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 538 | 517 | 507 | 519 | 522 | 513.92 | 536.93 | 565.6 | 574.44 | 567.91 | 578.1 |
| RQ8 | Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | 888 | 880 | 846 | 818 | 843 | 850.65 | 854.39 | 771.27 | 761.38 | 808.59 | 684.07 |
| RM1 | Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust | 1,008 | 966 | 954 | 920 | 914 | 928 | 960.83 | 1017.1 | 1006.3 | 969.74 | 962.68 |
| RGM | Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 183 | 189 | 184 | 181 | 177 | 186.74 | 193.4 | 196.73 | 201.41 | 209.81 | 212.78 |
| RGN | Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 765 | 722 | 690 | 676 | 687 | 684.54 | 767.93 | 776.66 | 747.47 | 647.44 | 613.94 |
| RAJ | Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 776 | 770 | 757 | 754 | 728 | 727.72 | 713.26 | 746.43 | 767.76 | 764.78 | 770.46 |
| RQW | The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust | 381 | 365 | 361 | 346 | 623 | 628.62 | 546.81 | 498.41 | 498.35 | 514.36 | 484.53 |
| RCX | The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust | 721 | 683 | 659 | 642 | 656 | 623.63 | 511.29 | 542.22 | 560.5 | 502.36 | 480.04 |
| RWG | West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | — | | | | 867 | 833.96 | 816 | 826.73 | 924.13 | 924.78 | 766.08 |
| RQL | Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust | 761 | 621 | 616 | 548 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| RPW | St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust | 506 | 476 | 436 | 378 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| RGR | West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust | 685 | 713 | 673 | 664 | 687 | 678.79 | 638.31 | 676 | 630.77 | 570.42 | 494.12 |

*Notes*

Name changes:

ROD—Basildon and Thurrock General Hospitals NHS Trust (1997-08-2001-02), Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust (2002-03-2004-05), Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06-present)

RGT—Addenbrookes NHS Trust (1996-97-2004-05), Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06-present)

RGP—James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust (1996-97-2004-05), James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06-present)

RC9—Luton and Dunstabte Hospital NHS Trust (1996-97-2004-05), Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06-present)

RQ8—Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust (1996-07-2001-02), Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust (2002-03-present)

RM1—Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust (1996-97-2000-01), Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust (2001-02-present)

RGM—Papworth Hospital NHS Trust (1996-97-2004-05), Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06-present)

RGN—Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust (1996-97-2004-05), Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06-present)

RAJ—Southend Health Care NHS Trust (1996-97-2001-02), Southend Hospital NHS Trust (2002-03-2004-05), Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06-present)

RCX—Kings Lynn and Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust (1996-97-2004-05), The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust (2005-06-present)

*Source:*

Department of Health form KH03

### Hospital Beds: Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures were used in determining the status of a delayed discharge patient in the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust area in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available; [171842]

(2) how many delayed discharges there were in the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust area in each of the last 12 months; [171844]

(3) what assessment has been made of the effect of the closure of the intermediate care wards at St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford on the number of delayed discharge patients in the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust area in the last 24 months. [171845]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: The information is not currently available, it will be available in February and a copy will be placed in the Library.

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related admissions there were to hospitals in each primary care trust area in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and what proportion these figures represented of all admissions in each area. [172406]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Hospitals: Eastern Region

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled at *(a)* Addenbrooke's hospital, *(b)* West Suffolk hospital and *(c)* Ipswich hospital within (i) seven days and (ii) 24 hours of the appointment in each of the last five years. [167901]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information is not available in the format requested. However the following table shows the number of last minute cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, at Cambridge University Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust and West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust for each year from 2002-03 to 2006-07 which is the latest data available.

*Number of last minute cancelled operations for non clinical reasons*

| *Name* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 67,254 | 66,303 | 68,569 | 60,803 | 52,005 |
| Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 645 | 769 | 1,090 | 507 | 460 |
| Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | 417 | 488 | 533 | 384 | 355 |
| West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust | 194 | 425 | 585 | 275 | 225 |

*Notes:*

A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation. Some common non-clinical reasons for cancellations by the hospital include: ward beds unavailable; surgeon unavailable; emergency case needing theatre; theatre list over-ran; equipment failure; admin error; anaesthetist unavailable; theatre staff unavailable; and critical care bed unavailable.

An operation which is rescheduled to a time within 24 hours of the original scheduled operation should be recorded as a postponement and not as a cancellation. The QMCO collection does not record the number of postponements.

*Source:*

Department of Health dataset QMCO

### Hospitals: Manpower

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1055W, on hospitals: manpower, what funding his Department has provided to the NHS National Workforce Projects (NWPs) in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; where the pilots commissioned by the NHS NWPs are operating, and what the objectives for each pilot is; whether the results of the pilots will be made public; what lessons have so far be learned as a result of the pilots; and if he will make a statement. [166324]

**Ann Keen:** The funding allocations to national health service National Workforce Projects were £6,800,000 in 2005-06; £3,500,000 in 2006-07; and £762,000 in 2007-08 for NHS National Workforce Projects. A total of £11,062,000 is being invested for the five year duration of the programme from 2005-06 to 2009-10 to support front line NHS services.

The pilot projects under way are with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists; Milton Keynes General NHS Trust; shift patterns; paediatric solutions; cooperative solutions; taking care 24:7; team working, handover and escalation; and information technology solutions. Full details of all these pilots including locations and where available their objectives, results and lessons learned have been placed in the Library. All this information can also be viewed at the National Workforce Project website:

www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/pilotprojects.html.

### Hospitals: Standards

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he intends to publish Patient Environment Action Team scores for 2007; [170054]

(2) whether the National Patient Safety Agency's Patient Environment Action Team scores for 2007 incorporated an assessment of the extent to which nutritional screening is undertaken in hospitals as part of its work on hospital food. [170081]

**Ann Keen:** The 2007 patient environment action team (PEAT) scores were published on 21 November 2007 and the summary results for the last three years are given as follows. Full details are available on the NPSA website at:

www.msnpsa.nhs.uk/peat/

|  |  |  |  |  | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Excellent* | *Good* | *Acceptable* | *Poor* | *Unacceptable* |
| *Patient environment* |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2005 | 10.3 | 44.8 | 40.1 | 4.6 | 0.2 |
| 2006 | 14.2 | 49.8 | 31.1 | 4.8 | 0.2 |
| 2007 | 14.3 | 48.9 | 34.8 | 1.6 | 0.5 |
| *Hospital food* |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2005 | 32.4 | 51.5 | 14.8 | 1.3 | 0.0 |
| 2006 | 33.8 | 57.8 | 8.3 | 0.08 | 0 |
| 2007 | 46.5 | 48.5 | 4.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 |

*Notes:*

Figures rounded to one decimal place

As part of the PEAT survey 2007, responding national health service organisations were rated on various aspects of hospital food provision. This includes a category designated 'nutritional' care which asks whether all patients have been nutritionally screened, but this is only one component of the category, and the results cannot be disaggregated.

Guidance states that in answering, respondents should also consider whether there is evidence that weighing scales are regularly calibrated; there is a policy on nutritional care; there is an active nutritional screening group; and whether staff are aware of the importance of nutritional care for patients' health and quality of life.

### Influenza: Disease Control

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department has budgeted for the costs associated with the new measures in the Flu Pandemic Plan in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11, broken down by *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital expenditure; [169945]

(2) what arrangements his Department has to replenish its stocks of Tamiflu as existing stocks expire; what estimate he has made of the cost of stock replenishment; and how such costs will appear in his Department's resource accounts; [169953]

(3) when he expects his Department to have increased its stock of antivirals to the levels where it has sufficient for at least 50 per cent. of the population in the event of pandemic influenza. [169954]

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the advanced supply vaccines recently announced will be manufactured. [170201]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Clinical countermeasures, vaccines, antivirals, antibiotics and facemasks are a key part of the Government response to pandemic influenza. I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1350-61, to launch the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic and the Government's plan to increase the level of stockpiles of the clinical countermeasures to improve the ability of the United Kingdom to respond to a pandemic.

The costs of new clinical countermeasure strategy cannot be provided as it could affect the commercial negotiations that will be progressed and potentially reduce the possibility of getting best value for money.

The increasing of current stockpile of antivirals is subject to a commercial assessment on antivirals will be completed that will identify the worldwide capacity and demand for antivirals.

The current stockpile of Tamiflu will be replenished if it passes its shelf life and has not been used to respond to a pandemic. The costs of replenishment will be subject to the same commercial arrangements as that for procuring new stockpiles and therefore cannot be currently stated.

The Advance Supply Agreements for the supply of pandemic specific vaccine were signed with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Baxter this summer. These allow for the purchase of sufficient vaccine for the UK population. The Baxter vaccine will be manufactured in the Czech Republic and Austria, while the GSK vaccine will be manufactured in Germany and Belgium.

### Influenza: Vaccination

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the percentage of old age pensioners who receive an influenza vaccine. [170092]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]*: We launched a campaign on 28 September incorporating a number of strategies aimed at encouraging people aged 65 and over to receive their flu immunisation. The campaign incorporated:

national television advertising;

advertising in national and regional newspapers, including ethnic media;

advertising on pharmacy bags; and

work with commercial partners such as Tesco, Morrisons and other stakeholders such as Alzheimer's Society and Aid for the Aged in Distress.

Details of those eligible to receive their free flu vaccination this year was made available to all health professionals via the chief medical officer letter dated 30 March 2007 and also as part of the 'If you knew about Flu' campaign leaflet. Two million of these leaflets have been distributed as part of this year's campaign.

### In-vitro Fertilisation

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of providing one cycle of in-vitro fertilisation treatment in the latest year for which figures are available. [174014]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We do not have an estimate of how much the national health service spends on in-vitro fertilisation. However, we arranged for a survey of primary care trusts by strategic health authorities in the autumn about the commissioning of infertility treatment. The responses to the survey are currently being analysed.

### Malnutrition: Screening

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made in establishing a nationally-agreed standard malnutrition screening tool, as stated in section 5.0 of the National Patient Safety Agency's Nutritional Screening: Structured Investigation Project; [170078]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure patients are aware of nutritional screening so that they can ask for an assessment, as recommended in section 4.4 of the National Patient Safety Agency's Nutritional Screening: Structured Investigation Project. [170079]

**Ann Keen:** The National Nutrition Plan published in October 2007 encouraged commissioners and providers to promote nutrition screening in all health and social care settings. The National Patient Safety Agency is currently supporting the implementation of the malnutrition universal screening tool (MUST) as the screening tool of choice. This is being done in collaboration with the Royal College of Nursing, as part of the Nutrition Now Campaign, through a serious of trust based workshops. The workshops are attended by nurses, dieticians and caterers and provide a training session on using the MUST screening tool.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received from *(a)* NHS staff, *(b)* social care staff and *(c)* other interested parties on the (i) availability and (ii) suitability of weighing scales to assess patients for risk of malnutrition in the last year; what the content was of these representations; and if he will make a statement. [170080]

**Ann Keen:** The Department's correspondence database contains no representations made in the last year that mention 'weighing scales'. Other departmental offices also confirmed that they are not aware of receiving representations in the previous year, which raised the issue of the availability and suitability of weighing scales to assess patients for risk of malnutrition.

### Maternity Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts in England provide maternity services. [171664]

**Ann Keen:** Analysis of national data from NHS Maternity Statistics, England 2005-06 shows that the national health service trusts listed as follows provide maternity services.

Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Airedale NHS Trust
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Barts and The London NHS Trust
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust
Countess Of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
East Cheshire NHS Trust
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust
Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust
Medway NHS Trust
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust
North Bristol NHS Trust
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Poole Hospital NHS Trust
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust
St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust
St Mary's NHS Trust
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust
Walton Centre For Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust
Weston Area Health NHS Trust
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

## Medical Treatments Abroad: France

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions Ministers have had with their EU counterparts on the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council on *(a)* the provision of healthcare to English nationals in France and *(b)* electronic patient record-sharing across Europe. [172901]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Neither of these subjects was on the agenda of last weeks Employment, Social, Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council. In addition to regular meetings between officials there has been bilateral contact at ministerial level with the French Government about the provision of healthcare to United Kingdom nationals in France.

There have been no recent discussions at ministerial level on electronic patient record-sharing across Europe.

## Mental Health Services: Armed Forces

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provision of healthcare by his Department to former servicemen and women with combat stress. [172886]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department takes very seriously the health needs of our troops when they return from serving their country. From 1948, successive Governments have been clear that healthcare for veterans is the responsibility of the national health service. We recently announced an extension of priority treatment provisions for veterans as well as the establishment, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence, of the first pilot projects aimed at making our mental health services more accessible to ex-service personnel.

In addition, the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme will improve access to talking treatments to all victims of trauma, including those affected by combat experience. This programme has been funded by £170 million of new money and will eventually provide coverage to all parts of the country.

### Mental Health Services: Suicide

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of suicides committed by people who have received treatment for mental illness in each of the last five years. [173280]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 925-26W.

### Mentally Incapacitated: Protection

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adult protection referrals have taken place in each local authority in England, broken down by the assessment level of the provider involved. [172104]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not currently collected centrally.

On 14 June 2007, I announced that plans are being put in place to introduce a new national monitoring system to report the extent of abuse. This will be based on a standardised method for the collection of data on protection of vulnerable adult referrals in England. The Information Centre for health and social care is leading the work to develop and collect data from councils on a national basis.

### Methadone: Durham

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were prescribed methadone and other hard drug substitutes in *(a)* County Durham and *(b)* Easington constituency in each year since 2000. [172763]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available in the format requested. Dispensing data is collected by the number of prescription items and not by individuals. The following table contains figures for the number of prescriptions of methodone and buprenorphine in County Durham Primary Care Trust and predecessor organisations from 2003, the earliest full year for which information is available.

| | *Methadone* | *Buprenorphine and buprenorphine with naloxone* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 12,478 | 1,386 |
| 2004 | 17,433 | 2,298 |
| 2005 | 21,598 | 3,579 |
| 2006 | 25,130 | 6,588 |

*Notes/Sources:*
Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.
Prescription Items: prescriptions are written on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.
County Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT) was formed in October 2006 from a merger of Durham Dales, Derwentside, Durham and Chester-le-Street, Easington and Sedgefield PCTs.

### Midwives: Training

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of training student midwives in the 2006-07 financial year. [172145]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the total cost of training student midwives in the 2006-07 financial year is not held centrally. The latest year for which data are available is the 2005-06 financial year when the total cost was estimated at £82.2 million.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery training places were commissioned in each academic year since 1997-98. [172146]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of student midwives in each academic year since 1997-98 is shown in the following table.

| | *Diploma* | *Degree* | *Total pre-registration* | *Other* | *Grand total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 572 | 224 | 796 | 908 | 1,704 |
| 1998-99 | 597 | 255 | 852 | 899 | 1,751 |
| 1999-2000 | 620 | 395 | 1,015 | 757 | 1,772 |
| 2000-01 | 604 | 494 | 1,098 | 789 | 1,887 |
| 2001-02 | 525 | 621 | 1,146 | 732 | 1,878 |
| 2002-03 | 651 | 724 | 1,375 | 752 | 2,127 |
| 2003-04 | 716 | 753 | 1,469 | 790 | 2,259 |
| 2004-05 | 744 | 895 | 1,639 | 735 | 2,374 |
| 2005-06 | 517 | 1042 | 1559 | 661 | 2220 |
| 2006-07 | 540 | 983 | 1523 | 467 | 1990 |

*Source:*
Quarterly monitoring/financial and workforce information return

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which higher education institutions offer training in midwifery. [172147]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the higher education institutions that offer training to student midwives, is not held by the Department. The Nursing and Midwifery Council is responsible for approving education institutions to run midwifery training programmes.

### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence intends to publish a review of its guidance on "Fertility: assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems", published on 25 February 2004. [174016]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) sets out a proposed review date when it publishes each new clinical guideline. We understand that the published review date for NICE's clinical guideline on "Fertility: assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems" is February 2008. At that point, NICE will take a view on whether the guideline requires an update. This will depend primarily on whether significant new information has become available since the guideline was originally published. If NICE decides that the guideline does not need to be updated, it will set out a new time scale for a future reassessment of the need for a review.

## NHS: Managers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total wage cost of employing managers in the NHS was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what it was in 1997. [170597]

**Ann Keen:** Total costs of employing managers in the national health service in 2006-07 was £2,088 million. The total cost in 1997-98 was £912 million.

The figures include salaries and wages, national insurance and pension contributions. It is not possible to identify wages alone.

*Source:*

Annual financial returns of health authorities and NHS trusts 1997-98.

Annual financial returns of strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts 2006-07.

Data do not include NHS foundation trusts in 2006-07.

## NHS: Overseas Visitors

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people and *(b)* children who would be denied access to medical care if the proposal to exclude overseas visitors from eligibility to free NHS primary medical services is implemented; and if he will make a statement; [173373]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the incidence of communicable diseases in the general population if the proposal to exclude overseas visitors from eligibility to free NHS primary medical services is implemented; and if he will make a statement; [173374]

(3) if he will publish all the written responses received by his Department to the consultation on the proposal to exclude overseas visitors from eligibility to Free NHS primary medical services; [173375]

(4) when he plans to publish the results of the consultation on the proposal to exclude overseas visitors from eligibility to free NHS primary medical services. [173376]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The responses to the 2004 consultation are being considered.

No estimation has yet been made of the potential impact on people and children.

All current regulations will take into account the key preventative and public health role of NHS primary care as well as international law and humanitarian principles.

## Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust: Waiting Lists

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum waiting times for (i) inpatient and (ii) daycase admissions were in Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [172519]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested has been set out in the following table.

*Patient waiting for elective admission at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust*

| | Quarter | Admission type | Total waiting list | Maximum weeks | Median wait (weeks) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | Q3 | Ordinary | 1,364 | 25 to <26 | 7.8 |
| | Q3 | Daycase | 4,773 | 25 to <26 | 6.2 |
| | Q4 | Ordinary | 1,210 | 19 to <20 | 5.9 |
| | Q4 | Daycase | 4,231 | 19 to <20 | 4.8 |
| 2007-08 | Q1 | Ordinary | 1,078 | 19 to <20 | 6.0 |
| | Q1 | Daycase | 4,138 | 19 to <20 | 4.5 |
| | Q2 | Ordinary | 927 | 16 to <17 | 5.4 |
| | Q2 | Daycase | 3,541 | 16 to <17 | 4.0 |

*Notes:*

1. The average waiting times given are estimated from quarterly Korner returns (KH07) submitted by NHS providers to the Department of Health.
2. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decisions to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. Where there are low numbers of waiters the median is prone to fluctuations. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

*Source:*

Department of Health form KH07.

## Nurses: Pay

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average wage of nurses outside the NHS in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* 1997. [170657]

**Ann Keen:** No estimate has been made of the average wage of nurses outside the national health service in the last year for which figures are available and 1997. However, as part of its mandate, the independent NHS Pay Review Body compares NHS nurses' pay with others as part of its deliberations in making recommendations about pay uplifts for NHS nurses.

## Nurses: Standards

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the risk of increased patient infections if visits from specialist nurses are capped as proposed in his Department's consultation on Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [171197]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The proposal set out in the consultation document regarding remuneration for home visits is not intended to impact adversely on infection control but rather to increase the transparency and the quality of services.

No assessment has been made on the potential impact of these proposals on infection control but an impact assessment is being developed that will consider the social impact of them; this includes a health impact.

### Nutrition: Training

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the inter-agency round table group met to raise issues around training, as described on page 17 of his Department's document, Improving Nutritional Care; what issues were raised; whether further meetings of the inter-agency round table group are planned; which agencies are represented on the round table group; and if he will make a statement. [170065]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The inter-agency round table group is chaired by the National Association for Care Catering and as such is independent of Government. The membership of the group and dates and contents of meetings are a matter for it to decide.

### Obesity

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects the cross-Government strategy to tackle obesity to be published. [172465]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The cross-Government strategy to tackle obesity will be published in January 2008.

### Paramedical Staff: Training

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the use of *(a)* vocational training courses and *(b)* degree-level courses to train paramedics; and if he will make a statement. [170548]

**Ann Keen:** The Department is working with partners to consider the options for educating a workforce that will achieve the aims set out in the national ambulance strategy. Strategic health authorities working with their ambulance trust and education partners are best placed to determine the best way to educate their workforce teams to meet local needs.

### Patients: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways his Department has supported BAPEN's screening initiative, as referred to on page 14 of his Department's document, "Improving Nutritional Care". [170066]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has supported the British Association Parental and Enteral Nutrition's National Screening Week by distributing information in advance of the initiative to health and social care organisations encouraging hospitals and care homes to take part in the exercise.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1244W, on patients: nutrition, what the barriers to nutritional screening in hospitals identified in the two workshops hosted by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) were; in what ways the NPSA asked patients for their views on nutritional care in hospitals; what views were expressed by patients; and if he will provide a breakdown of the committed expenditure provided in the answer by major cost area. [170114]

**Ann Keen:** The following barriers to nutritional screening within 24 hours of admission to hospital were identified by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) at the two workshops: lack of equipment, weighing scales and height measures; lack of leadership; lack of clarity relating to screening and assessment; dependency of patients; credibility and usability of available screening tools; lack of education and training for medical and nursing staff and that it is not mandatory.

The NPSA hosted two patient participation meetings in early 2007 to gain their views of nutritional care in hospitals. 27 patient representatives either nominated by Age Concern or recruited from the NPSA patient participation register attended these meetings. All of the participants had been hospital inpatients in the last two years. The meetings were facilitated externally.

The patient participation meetings discussed the patients' experience of hospital food and focused in more detail on nutritional screening. Perhaps the most surprising finding of these workshops was that participants did not generally complaint about the quality of the food. Many, indeed, said that it was very reasonable or even good.

Several commented that hospital food had improved beyond all recognition, noting earlier experiences when the food had been inedible. There was a concern to acknowledge this improvement, one commented:

> "it used to be cold fish and stale cabbage smells—you don't get that now".

There were some issues raised relating to the availability and choice for some patient groups, specifically diabetics and people on a halal diet.

There were considerable complaints about the way the food was served. The tendency for the food to be plated before reaching patients in some hospitals was disliked, as some people got too much, which was then wasted, and others did not get enough and went hungry.

Getting food delivered was seen as the start. It must be possible for patients to reach it and then to be able to eat it. This is clearly not always the case. Sometimes food was put out of reach, so that someone had to move it closer to a patient. A number of participants recounted that they or others were unable to eat without help due to problems associated with their illness.

Participants were asked if they had been aware of being screened while in hospital. Some were aware of being weighed, but not much else. Several said that they had lost substantial amounts of weight, but no one asked them about it. A few were aware of their height being checked. Very, very few remembered being asked any questions about what they ate, although some Asian participants had been asked about this and one person remembered being asked if he was diabetic.

The costs of the workshops were £2,500. The balance is an approximation of the staff and non-pay costs associated with supporting this work and the work with the Royal College of Nursing.

### Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Orthopaedics

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for elective orthopaedic surgery in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [167881]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information is not available for elective orthopaedic surgery alone at Peterborough and Stamford Hospital National Health Service Foundation Trust. The following table shows the in-patient waiting list statistics for the trauma and orthopaedic specialty for the Peterborough and Stamford NHS Hospital Foundation Trust.

| *Time period—month ending* | *Median waiting time of patients still waiting for in-patient admission (in weeks)* |
|---|---|
| March 1997 | 11.6 |
| March 1998 | 18.1 |
| March 1999 | 14.0 |
| March 2000 | 18.0 |
| March 2001 | 17.3 |
| March 2002 | 14.2 |
| March 2003 | 15.8 |
| March 2004 | 13.0 |
| March 2005 | 10.5 |
| March 2006 | 8.6 |
| March 2007 | 15.0 |
| September 2007 | 12.1 |

*Notes:*

1. Elective orthopaedic surgery, is only a subset of trauma and orthopaedic specialty which is collected on the return.
2. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated. Inpatient waiting times are measure from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

*Source:*

Department of Health KH07 Quarterly Monitoring

### Peterborough District Hospital: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related admissions to the accident and emergency department of Peterborough District Hospital by the East of England NHS Ambulance Trust and other agencies there were in each month since May 2005; and if he will make a statement. [168863]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the count of finished admission episodes where the admission method was via accident and emergency (A and E) for alcohol related diagnosis to Peterborough and Stamford NHS Foundation Trust for each month from April 2005 to March 2006 (which is the latest data available):

| *Month of admission* | *Total admission episodes* |
|---|---|
| April | 66 |
| May | 45 |
| June | 66 |
| July | 58 |
| August | 63 |
| September | 60 |
| October | 63 |
| November | 66 |
| December | 58 |
| January | 55 |
| February | 36 |
| March | 49 |
| Total: | 685 |

*Notes:*

*Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Data Quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*All diagnoses count of episodes*

These figures represent a count of all Finished Consultant Episodes where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record. ICD10 Diagnosis codes used: K70,T51,F10.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care

### Pregnancy Complications

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of ectopic pregnancy there have been in each year since 1997-98. [174018]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the exact format requested. The following table has the number of ectopic pregnancies that resulted in a stay in a national health service hospital for each year since 1997-98.

*Ectopic pregnancies that resulted in an NHS hospital stay, England, 1997-98 to 2005-06*

| | *Number of ectopic pregnancies* | *Rate per 100 deliveries* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 9,300 | 1.6 |
| 1998-99 | 9,100 | 1.6 |
| 1999-2000 | 8,900 | 1.6 |
| 2000-01 | 9,100 | 1.7 |
| 2001-02 | 8,800 | 1.6 |
| 2002-03 | 8,800 | 1.6 |
| 2003-04 | 9,000 | 1.6 |
| 2004-05 | 9,200 | 1.5 |
| 2005-06 | 9,600 | 1.6 |

*Source:*

NHS Maternity Statistics, England: 2005-06, Hospital Episode Statistics.

### Pressure Sores

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are routinely collected by *(a)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection and *(b)* the Healthcare Commission on the prevalence and severity of bed sores. [172554]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Under regulation 37 of the Care Homes Regulations 2001, care home providers are required to notify the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) of instances of 'death, illness and other events'. We are informed by CSCI that it has defined 'other events' as including notification of pressure sores of grade 2 or above occurring while resident in a care home, as these constitute a serious injury to the service user. Where such cases occur, providers must inform CSCI immediately (by fax, e-mail or first class post).

These data are used for the purposes of intelligence gathering. Inspectors will note the number of instances reported and make a judgement about whether to specifically include this as a focus at next inspection. Where information gathered, including concerns about the incidence of pressure sores in a particular home, indicates any serious risk to the experience of people living there, inspectors may bring forward an inspection programme or conduct an unannounced inspection. This information is collected and used locally by CSCI and is not collated centrally.

Information about pressure sores is not routinely collected by the Healthcare Commission.

### Provider of Care Services

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether there are plans to review the Commission for Social Care Inspection's current practice of referring complaints from members of the public about a care provider back to the provider; how many complaints about a provider of care services are required before an inspection is triggered; and what assessment he has made of any changes in the role of the Commission for Social Care Inspection; [172053]

(2) if he will make it his policy that the Commission for Social Care Inspection should have to make an additional inspection of a care home assessed as requiring a three yearly inspection in cases where there have been significant levels of staff turnover. [172165]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have no plans to review the Commission for Social Care Inspection's role in complaints. We are informed by the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the threshold for intervention by CSCI is not measured uniquely in terms of the number of complaints about a provider. It is one of a number of factors that CSCI take into account.

CSCI has developed, through the inspection methodology, "Inspecting for Better Lives", a proportionate inspection framework based on risk. This enables CSCI to focus its resources on those homes that have been assessed as requiring the most improvement. Minimum inspection frequencies are based on quality ratings as follows:

homes classified as 'poor' receive two key inspections per year;

homes classified as 'adequate' receive one key inspection per year;

homes classified as 'good' receive one key inspection every two years; and

homes classified as 'excellent' receive one key inspection every three years;

Even when a home is judged to be 'good' or 'excellent', it will continue to be monitored throughout the period and CSCI will act on any concerns, complaints or allegations. In addition to key inspections, which are thorough, detailed inspections, under which CSCI will assess all of the key national minimum standards, CSCI also carries out random and 'thematic' inspections, which are short, focused inspections on a specific theme or area.

Annual Service Reviews are also conducted from information obtained from the home and a report produced on an annual basis. Reviews are an analysis of all information that CSCI has gathered since the last key inspection, information submitted each year from the service itself and information from surveys sent to people who use the service and other interested parties. The assessment will consider matters such as staff turnover; if any concerns are raised about how well outcomes are being met for the people who use the services, or if CSCI receives information that causes concern between reviews, it will bring forward the date of the key inspection of the service. CSCI retains the power to conduct an inspection of any home at any time.

### Ritalin: Children

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk were prescribed Ritalin in each of the last five years. [169570]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information is not collected in the format requested. In March 2006, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance on the use of all drugs used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). They estimated that around 5 per cent. of school-aged children meet the diagnostic criteria for ADHD, equivalent to 366,000 children and adolescents in England and Wales, but not all these children will require medication.

We have also asked NICE to develop a clinical guideline on both the pharmacological and psychological interventions to treat ADHD. The guideline will cover the care provided by primary, community and secondary health care professionals who have direct contact with, and make decisions concerning, the care of children, young people and adults with ADHD.

The guideline will include:

care in general practice and national health service community care;

hospital out-patient and in-patient care;

primary/secondary interface of care and

transition from childhood services to adult services.

Publication of the guideline is expected in July 2008.

### Skin Cancer: Health Education

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated to the Sunsmart campaign in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [172467]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Cancer Research UK, which runs the SunSmart campaign on behalf of the United Kingdom Health Departments, has been awarded funding of £104,000 for 2007-08 by the Department (under the provisions of section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968). Provisionally and subject to the availability of funds approved by Parliament it has also been awarded £110,000 for 2008-09, and £115,000 for 2009-10.

### Social Services: Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason expenditure on grants for adult personal social services in 2006-07 was £267 million less than the plans set out in his Department's 2006 annual report. [167829]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department's 2006 annual report set out expenditure on grants for adult personal social services in 2006-07 of £1,688.8 million. Of this, £1,590.4 million was revenue grants and £98.4 million was capital resources including Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue).

The Specific Grant Resources allocated by the Department in 2006-07 totalled £1,644 948 million. Of this, £1,596.848 million was allocated to revenue grants. This is £6.485 million, higher than the resources allocated in the annual report, due to this sum being made available to fund new pressures from the Mental Capacity Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service. £48.1 million was allocated to specific capital grants and a further £50.3 million of capital funding was allocated to Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue). Total capital expenditure was £98.4 million, as set out in the annual report.

### Social Services: Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the report of the review by the Social Care Funding Group. [164613]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The review of social care funding, led by Her Majesty's Treasury, was an internal Government exercise and therefore the report is not available in the public domain.

### Social Services: Inspections

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many providers of adult social care services are regulated by the Commission for Social Care Inspection; and what proportion of all providers of adult social care services regulated by the Commission for Social Care Inspection have had their assessment level changed from 3 to 1 as a result of an inspection since 1st April 2006. [172107]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The number of adult care services registered with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) on 9 November 2007 was 24,405.

The number of services that remained active in the period from 1 April 2006 until 9 November 2007 is 21,257. Of these, 236 services that had a quality rating of level 3 on 1 April 2006 were then at rating level 1 on 9 November 2007. This is a proportion of 0.0111 (a percentage of 1.11 per cent.) of the services active between both dates.

### Social Services: Personal Records

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what social care information the Information Centre for Health and Social Care has identified as being relevant at a *(a)* national and *(b)* local level, as stated on the our priorities for 2007-08 section of its website; and what progress the Information Centre has made in (i) providing a forum for sharing good practice across information specialists in social care, (ii) forging greater integration of social care and health information, (iii) setting appropriate standards for social care data collection and (iv) producing a publication on the state of the nation using all the Information Centre's sources of data on social care and other sources as appropriate. [170499]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The publication of the New Performance Framework, for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships, in October, has led to a review of all the Information Centre for Health and Social Care's (IC) social care data, with a view to establishing which social care information is used at national and/or at local level.

The IC is currently engaging with stakeholders to establish a National Information and Intelligence Service. This will make better use of the extensive information resource available in locally managed systems and will provide the basis for integrated information in health and social care during 2008.

Social care data collections undertaken by the IC are subject to stringent standards which are regularly reviewed and revised by the Strategic Information Group for Adult Social Care. A specific work programme has been established to review these and other arrangements for setting standards (by March 2008). A decision has been taken for the Information Standards Board, which currently operates across the national health service, to extend its remit to cover social care.

The State of the Nation report will be available by the end of March 2008. It will outline the IC's social care data and set out a work programme for 2008-11.

### Sport

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many officials in his Department work on policy on encouraging mass participation in sport.; [172845]

(2) what changes in the allocation of responsibilities for policy on sport between the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and his Department have taken place since he became Secretary of State; [172846]

(3) how much his Department plans to spend on encouraging mass participation in sport in 2007-08. [172847]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has an important role in promoting the benefits of physical activity for all as set out in the Chief Medical Officer's report 'At least five a week: Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health'. We have worked closely with other Government Departments, including the Department for Culture Media and Sport, the Department for Children, Families and Schools and the Department for Transport to deliver the existing strategy for physical activity set out in 'Choosing Activity: a physical activity action plan'.

While competitive sport contributes significantly to physical activity levels across the population, encouraging mass participation in sport has hitherto fallen within the remit of Sport England.

HM Treasury has asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, to develop a new strategy for Sport England. Ministers have also agreed to work closely over the next few months to ensure that all relevant Government Departments are working together to deliver a physical activity strategy for all. Any changes in responsibilities for policy on physical activity, including the promotion of mass participation in sport, would emerge from this work.

The Department has no plans to fund work to encourage mass participation in sport in 2007-08. However, we are providing funding of £97,000 to the Amateur Swimming Association under the section 64 Scheme of Grants for a project that promotes swimming for health.

## STDs

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3rd December 2007, Official Report, column 1015W, on sexually transmitted diseases, if he will break down the figures supplied by age-group. [173070]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested for genitor urinary clinics (GUM) is published by age bands in 'Diagnoses and rates of selected STIs seen in GUM clinics: 2002-2006 National and Strategic Health Authority Level Summary tables'. A copy has been placed in the Library. Similar information for the national chlamydia screening programme has also be placed in the Library.

## Surgery: Eastern Region

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS operations were cancelled in each primary care trust in the east of England as a result of *(a)* administrative errors, *(b)* shortages of beds, *(c)* outbreaks of MRSA or other hospital-acquired infections, *(d)* unavailability of correct or clean equipment and *(e)* missing notes in each year since 1997. [170128]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information is not held in the format requested. The Department collects data on the number of operations cancelled at the last minute for non-clinical reasons for acute trusts in the east of England for the period 1997-98 to 2006-07 and the first quarter of 2007-08. The following table shows data for the number of operations cancelled for non-clinical reasons, national health service organisations in the east of England, 1997-98 to 2006-07 and the first quarter of 2007-08.

*Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons: NHS organisations in East of England, 2001-02 to 2006-07 and quarter 1 2007-08*

| | | *Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons* | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Organisation identification* | *Name* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08 quarter 1* |
| | England | 50,505 | 56,150 | 60,242 | 77,818 | 81,743 | 67,254 | 66,303 | 68,569 | 60,803 | 52,005 | 12,492 |
| RDD | Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | — | — | — | — | 213 | 212 | 266 | 286 | 278 | 169 | 37 |
| RC1 | Bedford Hospital NHS Trust | — | — | — | — | 793 | 152 | 180 | 201 | 190 | 208 | 38 |
| RGT | Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | — | — | — | — | 624 | 645 | 769 | 1,090 | 507 | 460 | 108 |
| RWH | East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | — | — | — | — | 345 | 266 | 557 | 505 | 856 | 682 | 180 |
| RDE | Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust | — | — | — | — | 444 | 741 | 815 | 800 | 439 | 172 | 62 |
| RQQ | Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust | — | — | — | — | 377 | 179 | 180 | 168 | 138 | 133 | 43 |
| RGQ | Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | — | — | — | — | 506 | 417 | 488 | 533 | 384 | 355 | 129 |
| RGP | James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust | — | — | — | — | 322 | 176 | 258 | 267 | 226 | 140 | 32 |

*Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in East of England, 2001-02 to 2006-07 and quarter 1 2007-08*

*Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons*

| *Organisation identification* | *Name* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08 quarter 1* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RC9 | Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust | | | | | 379 | 208 | 171 | 169 | 173 | 186 | 26 |
| RQ8 | Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | | | | | 264 | 419 | 470 | 447 | 370 | 257 | 113 |
| RM1 | Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust | | | | | 217 | 662 | 569 | 492 | 327 | 332 | 99 |
| RGM | Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | | | | | 168 | 185 | 166 | 159 | 154 | 167 | 25 |
| RGN | Peterborough and Stamford NHS Foundation Trust | | | | | 505 | 253 | 187 | 270 | 298 | 262 | 92 |
| RAJ | Southend Hospital NHS Trust | | | | | 400 | 509 | 691 | 1,007 | 869 | 472 | 98 |
| RQW | The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust | | | | | 493 | 323 | 262 | 213 | 311 | 293 | 61 |
| RWG | West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | | | | | 562 | 244 | 815 | 666 | 621 | 929 | 234 |
| RGR | West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust | | | | | 362 | 194 | 425 | 585 | 275 | 225 | 36 |
| QA6 | Bedfordshire HA | 347 | 457 | 368 | 694 | | | | | | | |
| QER | Cambridgeshire HA | 974 | 1,037 | 1449 | 1,467 | | | | | | | |
| QEP | East and North Hertfordshire HA | 426 | 569 | 532 | 490 | | | | | | | |
| QCA | East Norfolk HA | 169 | 246 | | | | | | | | | |
| QET | Norfolk HA | | | 796 | 824 | | | | | | | |
| QAX | North Essex HA | 700 | 1,000 | 1,266 | 1,246 | | | | | | | |
| QCD | North West Anglia HA | 402 | 826 | | | | | | | | | |
| QAY | South Essex HA | 767 | 1,260 | 1,045 | 1,299 | | | | | | | |
| QCF | Suffolk Health | 624 | 592 | 509 | 955 | | | | | | | |
| QEQ | West Hertfordshire HA | 142 | 255 | 214 | 425 | | | | | | | |

*Notes*

1. The table shows the organisations as they existed, at the time of each collection.
2. A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation.
3. Some common non-clinical reasons for cancellations by the hospital include: ward beds unavailable; surgeon unavailable; emergency case needing theatre; theatre list over-ran; equipment failure; admin error; anaesthetist unavailable; theatre staff unavailable; and critical care bed unavailable.
4. An operation which is rescheduled to a time within 24 hours of the original scheduled operation should be recorded as a postponement and not as a cancellation. The QMCO collection does not record the number of postponements.

*Source:* Department of Health dataset QMCO

## Tobacco: Vending Machines

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he last held discussions with the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators. [173268]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Departmental officials last met with the National Association of Vending Machine Operators in June 2007, and have plans to meet with the organisation again in February 2008.

## Wheelchairs: Waiting Lists

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* average waiting time for electric wheelchair provision was in the last 12 months; and what steps he is taking to reduce waiting times. [172888]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is not held centrally.

With regard to waiting times, it is the responsibility of local health and social care organisations to prioritise and allocate funding for wheelchairs based on their knowledge of the needs of their local populations. To support this process the Government recently announced, through the comprehensive spending review, that local authority funding will increase by £2.6 billion by 2010-11 and national health service funding will increase from £35 billion in 1997-98 to £110 billion in 2010-11.

As part of the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme the Department has been working collaboratively with service users and carers to develop a new model which will deliver an improved experience for the people who need equipment and wheelchairs, as well as those who care for them. The Department is currently undertaking a data collection process to develop a business case for change. The analysis of the information gathered has begun and a report will be provided in December.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Business: Non-Domestic Rates

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the aggregate yearly additional revenue that would be raised were every local authority in England with the power to levy a supplementary rate to levy the maximum supplementary business rate. [171601]

**John Healey:** An estimate of the aggregate yearly additional revenue by region that would be raised were every local authority in England with the power to levy a business rate supplement to levy the maximum business rate supplement is published in Table 3.4 of 'Business rate supplements: a White Paper'. This is available on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/504933

### Council Housing: Debts

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the historic debt outstanding against council house construction was in each year since 1990 in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* as a proportion of the public sector borrowing requirement; and what the projection for these figures is, including borrowing supported by arms-length management organisations. [165566]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Data on historic debt outstanding against council house construction are not available, as local authorities do not differentiate the uses to which their capital borrowing for housing is put between, for instance, new build, capital repairs, capital improvements or refurbishments.

The net amount of borrowing on council housing since 1993-94, as well as the proportion of public sector net borrowing that this represents for each year, is set out in the following table. Net, rather than gross figures are given for the value of housing debt in order to provide a comparison with the measure of public sector borrowing—this is expressed as a net figure and is negative where debt repayment exceeds borrowing for that year.

| | *HRA Borrowing £* | *Public sector net borrowing PSBN £* | *HRA Borrowing/PSBN Percentage* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|
| 1993-94 | 347,455,678 | 51,054,000,000 | 0.68 |
| 1994-95 | 431,792,337 | 43,271,000,000 | 1.00 |
| 1995-96 | 170,209,016 | 34,713,000,000 | 0.49 |
| 1996-97 | -435,801,552 | 27,170,000,000 | 1.60 |
| 1997-98 | 504,249,410 | 6,374,000,000 | 7.91 |
| 1998-99 | -678,146,182 | 4,017,000,000 | 16.88 |
| 1999-2000 | 542,751,024 | 16,251,000,000 | 3.34 |
| 2000-01 | 880,453,782 | 19,896,000,000 | 4.43 |
| 2001-02 | -14,679,989 | 921,000,000 | 1.59 |
| 2002-03 | 1,166,619,645 | 24,916,000,000 | 4.68 |
| 2003-04 | 2,415,662,009 | 34,094,000,000 | 7.09 |
| 2004-05 | -1,120,419,927 | 39,189,000,000 | 2.86 |
| 2005-06 | 418,022,901 | 37,516,000,000 | 1.11 |
| 2006-07 | 1,212,183,164 | 35,848,615,071 | 3.38 |

Notes:

1. From 2001-02 onwards the Department did not collect data on local authority borrowing for council housing from those authorities with no notional housing debt (used in calculating HRA subsidy entitlement).
2. Negative housing debt is an indication that housing authorities were repaying more debt than they were incurring. Negative PSBN is occasionally negative for the same reason but at a national level.
3. The figures are unaudited and based on claims submitted by local authorities.
4. Pre 1993-94 data is only available at disproportionate cost.
5. 2007-08 data is not available as the financial year is not finished yet.
6. Projections for future years are not available.

### Council Tax

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual percentage change in average Band D council tax was in England in real terms in each year since its introduction. [171584]

**John Healey:** Details of the annual percentage change in the average Band D, 2 adult, council tax in England, in real terms, since the introduction of council tax can be found on page eight of the Communities and Local Government's publication 'Local Government Finance Key Facts : England' that was published on 14 November.

A copy can be found on the Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/keystats/key2007.pdf

### Council Tax: Renewable Energy

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the presence of ground source heat pumps would be taken into account in the valuation of a property for council tax purposes by the Valuation Office Agency. [173313]

**John Healey:** Provisions in the Council Tax (Alterations of Lists and Appeals) Regulations 1993, which have been in force since council tax was introduced, mean that adding energy efficient measures, such ground source heat pumps, or making any other improvements to a property will have no effect on its current council tax banding.

If a property is sold, improvements may have an effect, but only if they are such that they push the value of the property into the next band range. Only substantial improvements would be likely to move a property up a band when it is sold. Energy efficiency measures are, in isolation, unlikely to do so.

### Councillors' Commission: Secondment

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent civil servants from her Department are seconded to the Councillors' Commission. [171637]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government allocated four full-time equivalent staff to run the Secretariat of the Councillors Commission over the period April to the end of November.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's internal guidance on *(a)* answering written parliamentary questions and *(b)* ministerial corrections to oral and written parliamentary questions. [174460]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department's guidance on writing answers to parliamentary questions has been deposited in the Library of the House.

The Leader of the House made a written ministerial statement on "Corrections to the Official Report" on 18 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1856WS. At the same time, my right hon. Friend issued guidance to Departments a copy of which was deposited in the Library of the House. Communities and Local Government follow that guidance for any ministerial corrections to oral and written parliamentary questions.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to Question 165129, on the Thames Gateway Forum tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 13 November 2007. [174340]

**Yvette Cooper:** I have now replied to my hon. Friend's question.

### EU Grants and Loans: North West Region

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the European Commission suspended approval for European Regional Development Fund payments to the Government Office North West and Government Office North East; when those suspensions were lifted; and what interim transitional payments were made to those regions by the Government. [172842]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: The European Commission suspended ERDF grant payments to the North West Objective 1 and Objective 2 programmes, and the North East Objective 2 programme on 11 April 2007. The temporary suspension was formally lifted for the North East and North West Objective 1 programmes on 11 September 2007. In the case of the North West Objective 2 programme we are carrying out urgent further work to re-assure the Commission before a final decision is taken. I have also met with Commissioner Hubner and held a further discussion with her to offer the reassurance that we are taking all steps possible to deal with the Commission's concerns.

The Government are continuing to pay all ERDF projects where eligible claims are made.

### Floods

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to revise Regional Spatial Strategies' flood risk assessments, in light of *(a)* recent flooding, *(b)* climate change and *(c)* the Lessons Learned review. [173306]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) was published in December 2006 to provide stronger planning policy on development and flood risk. It incorporates the latest forecasts of climate change. It also requires regional planning bodies to ensure their regional spatial strategies include a broad consideration of flood risk from all sources and set out a strategy for managing it. This process is informed by regional flood risk appraisals (RFRAs), which are based on the most up to date information on flood risk. RFRAs should be updated in line with future revisions of the regional spatial strategy. We will be taking careful note of the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's review of the lessons learned from the summer floods, and will be looking at whether any of the detail of PPS25 needs to be revised.

### Housing: Renewable Energy

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Valuation Office Agency has made of the number of domestic dwellings with *(a)* wind turbines and *(b)* solar panels. [173296]

**John Healey:** No such estimate has been made.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the changes in local authority expenditure on adult social services expected to result from demographic change over the next three years. [171629]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

The local government settlement and the scope to deliver efficiency gains is sufficient to cover increases in demand on social care. The settlement is informed by an analysis of all cost pressures, including modelling of demographic changes within the age group 18-65 years and people over 65 years.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proportion of the £5 billion reduction in ring-fenced and specific grants by 2010-11 will be re-allocated to *(a)* revenue support grant and *(b)* area-based grant; [173314]

(2) what proportion of the reduction in ring-fencing by 2010-11 will be achieved by transferring specific grants to *(a)* revenue support grant and *(b)* area based grant tied into Local Area Agreements. [173331]

**John Healey:** By 2010-11, £5.6 billion of former specific grant funding will be moving to either formula grant or area based grant. The £5.6 billion is comprised of £0.9 billion re-allocated to formula grant and £4.7 billion being provided as area based grant.

### Local Government Finance: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to announce the local government funding settlement for Herefordshire council; and if she will make a statement. [170872]

**John Healey:** I announced to the House the provisional settlement for English local authorities, including Herefordshire, on 6 December, *Official Report*, column 981.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Government has made of the expected yearly increase in business rate receipts if a supplementary business rate were introduced. [173318]

**John Healey:** Revenue from business rate supplements would be retained by the individual local authorities who levy them so will not increase business rate receipts to the national non-domestic rating pool.

### Ordnance Survey

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason her Department paid £2,260,000 to Ordnance Survey in 2006-07. [172476]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department did not pay Ordnance Survey such a sum in 2006-07. The Department did receive a similar sum from Ordnance Survey in 2007-08 by way of an additional receipt, as part of the Department's agreed dividend policy with Ordnance Survey.

### Planning Permission: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is providing guidance to local authorities following the ruling of the Information Tribunal upholding the complaint by Mr. David Markinson on unreasonable costs for photocopying building control and planning application information. [173342]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government issued guidance in November 2003 "General Power for Best Value Authorities to Charge for Discretionary Services — Guidance on the Power in the Local Government Act 2003" which sets out discretionary charges which local authorities can charge for some of their services. However, the specific issue of photocopying charges is not covered in this guidance.

The Government have no plans to issue new guidance as a result of the ruling of the Information Tribunal.

### Planning: Parking

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's recommended maximum limit is on the number of parking spaces for new residential developments, following the publication of Planning Policy Statement 3. [173315]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government do not prescribe car parking standards or maximum limits for new residential development. Rather, Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" introduced a more flexible approach to the local provision of car parking by giving local planning authorities the ability to set their own residential parking policies, taking account of expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently.

### Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Grants

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many grants have been made from the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund to each local authority since the fund was established; and what the average size of grant was. [173983]

**Mr. Dhanda:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State shall be writing shortly to the hon. Member with a list of projects funded under the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder fund. This will also provide an overview of financial allocations. A copy of this document will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Regeneration: Finance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sums the Bridging Newcastle Gateshead Pathfinder have requested to support regeneration in the west of Newcastle. [172612]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Bridging Newcastle Gateshead has submitted its Business Plan for 2008 to 2011 to the Department and the Plan is now being considered. The Plan does not provide details of how funding will be allocated to specific localities within the Pathfinder area.

### Sleeping Rough: Immigrants

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the increase in rough sleeping in London arising from changes in the immigration from east European nations following EU enlargement. [171604]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Local authorities who conduct rough sleeper counts collect information on any individuals sleeping rough who do not have recourse to public funds and are therefore unable to be moved off the streets. These will include those from EU accession states.

In 2007, four London boroughs reported eastern European rough sleepers as part of their street count:

Westminster: 112 rough sleepers including 20 eastern Europeans;

City of London: 45 rough sleepers including five eastern Europeans;

Lambeth: 15 rough sleepers including three eastern Europeans;

Redbridge: five rough sleepers including two eastern Europeans.

There has been major progress in tackling the worst form of homelessness, that of people sleeping on the streets. Since 1998 we have reduced rough sleeping by 73 per cent. Councils will receive at least £150 million over the next three years to help them prevent and tackle homelessness including rough sleeping. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services.

We are funding Homeless Link to take forward targeted work to address homelessness among eastern Europeans. This involves both work with voluntary organisations, particularly in London, and organisations in the source countries to facilitate returns.

### Small Businesses: Tax Allowances

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated take-up rate is of small business rate relief in England. [171708]

**John Healey:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Social Rented Housing: Finance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total financial contribution from the public purse to registered social landlords was in each year since 1997; and how much of this was spent on *(a)* building new social homes and *(b)* meeting the decent homes standard for homes on their stock. [164963]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows public expenditure through the Housing Corporation's programmes between 1997-98 to 2006-07 broken down by that provided for social rented homes (both new build and acquisition and refurbishment) and works to RSL stock.

*£ million*

| | *Total public expenditure via Housing Corporation by RSLs* | *Of which Provision of social housing* | *Major repairs and works to RSL stock* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 727 | 519 | 66 |
| 1998-99 | 732 | 580 | 40 |
| 1999-2000 | 815 | 706 | 34 |
| 2000-01 | 830 | 680 | 60 |
| 2001-02 | 823 | 668 | 63 |
| 2002-03 | 1,030 | 800 | 43 |
| 2003-04 | 1,805 | 1,258 | 54 |
| 2004-05 | 1,624 | 1,078 | 47 |
| 2005-06 | 1,598 | 933 | 35 |
| 2006-07 | 1,923 | 1,433 | 38 |

RSLs are registered with and regulated by the Housing Corporation. The regulatory code, requires them to meet the Decent Homes Standard by 2010. RSLs are expected to meet the cost of decent homes from within their own resources.

### Stakeholder

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of a stakeholder. [171569]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the Oxford English Dictionary, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. It says

"a person with an interest or concern in something".

### Tamworth Borough Council: Finance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was spent by Tamworth borough council in each of the last four financial years; [165760]

(2) what revenue Tamworth borough council received from *(a)* Government grants, *(b)* (i) domestic and (ii) non-domestic council tax, *(c)* the sale of assets and *(d)* other sources in each of the last four financial years. [165772]

**John Healey:** The gross expenditure, comprising capital and cost of services revenue (the latter excluding appropriations, interest and other accounting adjustments) of Tamworth borough council was:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 56.08 |
| 2004-05 | 58.317 |
| 2005-06 | 64.88 |
| 2007-08 | 59.311 |

Tamworth borough council's revenue from Government grants was:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 10.468 |
| 2004-05 | 18.361 |
| 2005-06 | 20.2 |
| 2006-07 | 19.38 |

Tamworth borough council's revenue from domestic council tax was:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 2.383 |
| 2004-05 | 2.57 |
| 2005-06 | 2.726 |
| 2006-07 | 2.865 |

Tamworth borough council's revenue from National non-domestic rates redistribution was:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 2.603 |
| 2004-05 | 2.031 |
| 2005-06 | 2.141 |
| 2006-07 | 5.227 |

Tamworth borough council's revenue from sale of assets was:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 9.18 |
| 2004-05 | 8.351 |
| 2005-06 | 6.066 |
| 2006-07 | 5.849 |

Tamworth borough council's revenue from 'any other source' (comprising rents, fees and charges) was:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 31.446 |
| 2004-05 | 27.004 |
| 2005-06 | 33.747 |
| 2006-07 | 25.99 |

### Temporary Accommodation: Standards

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department has published a summary of responses to its May 2003 consultation paper, Improving Standards of Accommodation for Homeless Households Placed in Temporary Accommodation; [172991]

(2) which organisations responded to her Department's consultation paper, Improving Standards of Accommodation for Homeless Households Placed in Temporary Accommodation in May 2003; [172992]

(3) what the reasons were for deciding against publishing guidance on the minimum standards in temporary accommodation for homeless households proposed in her Department's consultation paper from May 2003. [172993]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The consultation paper, Improving Standards of Accommodation for Homeless Households Placed in Temporary Accommodation was published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May 2003.

I have deposited in the Library of the House a summary of the responses to the consultation which includes the full list of respondents at Annex A.

The consultation paper, included the following proposal:

> "The Secretary of State intends to issue guidance re-stating and specifying the minimum standards of accommodation that housing authorities should have regard to when considering whether temporary accommodation is suitable for homeless person they seek to place in such accommodation."

This proposal was implemented through the inclusion of guidance in the revised Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, issued in July 2006. Chapter 17 of the Code, Suitability of Accommodation, provides guidance on the factors to be taken into account when determining the suitability of temporary accommodation secured under the homelessness legislation, including fitness for habitation, housing healthy and safety, overcrowding and houses in multiple occupation. Also in chapter 17, the Secretary of State recommends minimum standards that should be taken into account by local authorities when assessing whether bed and breakfast accommodation is suitable. The recommended minimum standards are set out in detail in annex 17 of the Code. Annex 16 of the Code sets out the statutory definition of overcrowding.

The Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/publicationsabouthomelessness/informationlocal/homelessnesscode/

### Thames Gateway Forum: Official Hospitality

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the dinner at the Thames Gateway Forum on 28 November at Excel, London; from what budget funding will be drawn; and if she will make a statement. [165129]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* Communities and Local Government has not contributed any money to the cost of the Thames Gateway Forum dinner. The Thames Gateway Forum dinner is a private sector endeavour run by CMPi, the organisation that manages the whole Thames Gateway Forum event.

## JUSTICE

### Courts: Gwent

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to provide new court buildings in Gwent. [173619]

**Maria Eagle:** The provision of new court facilities in Newport, Gwent is a priority for Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS). HMCS are developing proposals on how best to deliver these facilities to ensure they are both affordable and represent value for money.

### Divorce Courts: Children

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken to minimise the burden of court proceedings relating to divorce for children affected. [172936]

**Bridget Prentice:** The welfare of any child is of paramount importance where children are the subject in family proceedings. Irrespective of parents' marital status, children are most often the subject of proceedings about contact and residence arrangements following parental separation.

The Government believe that court is not always the best place to resolve these disputes. Court proceedings can prolong parental conflict which is damaging for children. Unless there are safety issues, it is generally better for the children concerned that parents reach agreement themselves. In "Parental Separation: Children's Needs and Parents' Responsibilities" (January 2005) the Government announced a range of measures to support this aim, including promoting family mediation which can offer advantages over going to court, especially where children are involved.

Children can find the court process frustrating and stressful if they feel that their wishes and feelings are being ignored. Where parents cannot agree, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) has a key role in ascertaining the wishes and feelings of the child involved, dependent on their age and understanding. In the most difficult cases, the court can request that the child is separately represented to ensure that their views are properly heard.

When parents do come to court, there is still the opportunity for them to reach agreement themselves and avoid the stress, for them and their children, of a contested hearing. In-court conciliation is a service available in most family courts which aims to facilitate agreement between the parents when they first attend court. The Government commissioned Dr. Liz Trinder of the university of East Anglia to evaluate the effectiveness of various models of in-court conciliation and to look at longer-term outcomes.

The latest report, published on 21 November, found that two years following conciliation, the great majority (79 per cent.) of cases had an agreement about contact and were closed. More children were having overnight contact and the overall amount of contact per child had increased since the initial conciliation intervention. However, during the two years following the intervention, the majority of parents had required further professional intervention and 40 per cent. had been involved in further litigation. Around 60 per cent. of agreements made at the 'original' conciliation meeting had been changed or had broken down by the two-year follow-up.

The well-being of parents had improved significantly and was at a similar level to those who had not come to court. However, this improvement was not apparent in children. After two years, 35-43 per cent. of these children still had borderline or abnormal well-being scores.

The report recommends the development of more relationship-based or therapeutically-orientated interventions as additional family justice systems or as referral-based services. The Government recognise that more needs to be done to support these parents and have already legislated to provide the courts with powers to refer parents to more therapeutic activities designed to help them overcome some of the underlying issues they face. These issues can often act as barriers that prevent parents from making arrangements that work for their children. The Government will shortly announce the timetable for implementing these provisions.

### Electronic Tagging

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals are electronically tagged in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales, broken down by the companies carrying out the monitoring. [173987]

**Mr. Hanson:** On 30 November 2007, 16,519 individuals in England and 698 individuals in Wales were subject to electronic monitoring of a curfew. In England, 11,226 were monitored by Group4Securicor (G4S) and 5,293 by Serco. In Wales, all 698 were monitored by Serco, which holds the contract for the West Midlands and Wales Area

### Fatal Accident Inquiry System

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on its plans to reform the Fatal Accident Inquiry system in order to allow inquiries into the deaths overseas of armed forces personnel who are based in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [173068]

**Bridget Prentice:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and the Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) had the opportunity to raise this issue with Kenny MacAskill when he spoke to him recently. It was agreed that our officials should meet to explore possible ways forward on this issue.

The Government are committed to helping bereaved families by holding inquests as close to home as possible and is pleased that the Scottish Executive is now addressing this issue.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 513W, on national identity cards, what budget has been allocated for the consultation referred to. [173149]

**Mr. Wills:** We are still finalising the budget for the process of engagement to develop a British statement of values. Parliament and the public can be assured that the Government will look for value for money in carrying out this programme.

### Legal Services Commission: Information and Communications Technology

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are registered to use the Legal Services Commission's new IT system for online reporting of case outcomes and solicitors' claims for costs. [173462]

**Maria Eagle:** The Legal Services Commission issued 8,882 LSC online passwords to all legal aid contract holders. Some providers have more than one office and would therefore require more than one password.

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the reason was for the delay in the launching of the Legal Services Commission's new IT system for online reporting of case outcomes and solicitors' claims for costs; and if he will make a statement; [173463]

(2) what funding his Department has provided for the Legal Services Commission's new IT system for online reporting of case outcomes and solicitors' claims for costs; and if he will make a statement; [173465]

(3) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Legal Services Commission's new IT system for online reporting of case outcomes and solicitors claims for costs; and if he will make a statement. [173466]

**Maria Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1260W.

### Ministerial Duties: Public Sector

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Minister has responsibility for public sector information. [173477]

**Mr. Wills:** I am the Minister responsible for the Office of Public Sector Information. The Department for Constitutional Affairs, the predecessor to the Ministry of Justice, took over responsibility for public sector information from the Cabinet Office on 31 October 2006.

### Offenders: Unemployment

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the piloting of withdrawal of benefits from unemployed offenders who do not comply with the terms of a community order made under section 177 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 is being monitored; and if he will make a statement. [172808]

**Mr. Hanson:** The piloting of the withdrawal of benefits from unemployed offenders was thoroughly monitored and evaluated between 2001-05 and the results of this process contributed to the formal assessment of the pilots. Advice about the future of the pilots, which includes the findings of that assessment, is currently under consideration. Monitoring is therefore suspended until a decision has been made.

### Prisoners

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of people who will be sent to prison in the first 12 months after the abolition of suspended sentences. [172708]

**Mr. Hanson:** Suspended sentences are not being abolished. Suspended sentence orders for summary-only offences are being abolished. We expect this will mean 400 offenders being given alternative non-custodial penalties over the next two years.

### Prisoners: Illegal Immigrants

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers were serving custodial sentences in UK prisons in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the prison population these figures represented; [173773]

(2) how many and what proportion of offenders convicted for *(a)* violent offences and *(b)* all offences were (i) illegal immigrants and (ii) failed asylum seekers in each of the last 10 years. [173774]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on the number of illegal immigrants who are held in custody is not held centrally and would involve detailed cross referencing of BIA case files with Prison Service records to ensure accuracy. As a result, the information required to answer this question cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Regarding failed asylum seekers serving custodial sentences, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for South Holland and the Deepings (Mr. Hayes) on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 300W.

### Prisoners: Sexual Offences

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many allegations of prisoners being *(a)* raped and *(b)* sexually assaulted have been received by the Prison Service in each of the last five years. [173436]

**Maria Eagle:** Rape is a legal term dependent on conviction and this information is not held centrally.

The Prison Service Incident Reporting System (IRS) collects information supplied by prisons on the reported numbers of sexual assaults. At any one time the system will include some proven and unproven allegations; some of the latter are removed/reclassified at a later date. The system provides a useful indicator, but the numbers should not be treated as absolute. It is not possible to separate incidents of sexual assault from allegations.

The numbers of sexual assaults reported through IRS are shown in the following table.

| | *Prisoner on prisoner sexual assaults* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 112 |
| 2003 | 92 |
| 2004 | 102 |
| 2005 | 87 |
| 2006 | 93 |

### Prisons

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sentenced receptions in prisons in England and Wales were for *(a)* less than one month, *(b)* between one and three months, *(c)* between three and six months and *(d)* between six and 12 months in each of the last five years. [173445]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the number of sentenced receptions into prisons in England and Wales by sentence length band from 2002 to 2006.

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Less than or equal to 1 month | 7,367 | 7,227 | 8,307 | 8,056 | 7,398 |
| Greater than 1 month and less than or equal to 3 months | 18,576 | 17,901 | 17,968 | 17,720 | 16,779 |
| Greater than 3 months and less than or equal to 6 months | 26,743 | 27,730 | 27,401 | 26,042 | 24,747 |
| Greater than 6 months and less than 12 months | 8,075 | 7,954 | 7,993 | 7,983 | 8,370 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what evaluation he has made of the effectiveness of prison based cognitive behavioural treatment programmes on reconviction rates. [173537]

**Mr. Hanson:** There is considerable international evidence to support the effectiveness of cognitive behavioural treatment programmes in reducing reoffending. These research findings are based on systematic reviews which draw together all the available, high quality evidence in the field. Two of the more recent reviews were published within the last two years (Wilson et al., 2005; Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2006).

UK research examining the effectiveness of cognitive behavioural programmes in prisons is limited and has produced mixed results (Friendship et al, 2002; Falshaw et al, 2003; Cann et al, 2003). These findings may be due to implementation failure or the research designs used which makes it difficult to attribute the outcomes directly to the impact of the intervention (Debidin, M. and Lovbakke, J, 2004). However, a qualitative study conducted in the UK in 2004 examined the programme experience of prisoners completing cognitive skills training (Clarke et al, 2004). Both prisoners and staff reported short-term benefits for prisoners such as improved prisoner behaviour; increased self-confidence; enhanced literacy skills and better interpersonal skills. Completion of cognitive skills also helped to prepare prisoners for other offending behaviour programmes.

The current RDS NOMS programme also includes further research on the effectiveness of other cognitive behavioural programmes based on rigorous research designs.

## Secure Training Centre: Restraint Techniques

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times handcuffs have been used on *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in each secure training centre since January 2006. [173444]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the use of handcuffs in secure training centres during the period January 2006 to October 2007 (the latest month for which figures are available). The figures were provided by the Youth Justice Board.

| | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|
| Hassockfield | 30 | 15 |
| Oakhill | 4 | 5 |
| Rainsbrook[1] | 0 | 0 |
| Medway[1] | 0 | 0 |

[1] Rainsbrook and Medway do not use handcuffs.

## Young Offender Institutions

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether food served in young offender institutions and secure training centres complies with the nutritional standards delivered in schools; and what arrangements are in place to monitor compliance with such standards. [173435]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not treat educational facilities in secure establishments as schools and as such school standards do not apply within either young offender institutions or secure training centres.

However, secure training centres and young offender institutions are contractually required by the Youth Justice Board and the Prison Service to provide a varied and healthy menu which complies with relevant food safety legislation. Standards are assessed through regular independent inspections. They are also assessed internally on a daily basis by senior management in young offender institutions and qualified catering staff in secure training centres. The Youth Justice Board monitors meal plans in secure training centres over a period of time to assess nutritional standards and can request that reasonable changes are made to the meals provided.

## Young Offender Institutions: Injuries

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what injuries were incurred by boys held in *(a)* Parc, *(b)* Lancaster Farms, *(c)* Warren Hill, *(d)* Thorn Cross and *(e)* Stoke Heath Young Offender Institutions during control and restraint in each month in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [173479]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information for Lancaster Farms, Warren Hill, Stoke Heath and Par is set out in the following table. No young people were injured during control and restraint at Thorn Cross during this period.

| | *Lancaster Farms* | *Warren Hill* | *Stoke Heath* | *Parc* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January 2006 | 0 | 0 | Redness to bridge of nose<br>Slightly reddened right wrist<br>Reddened wrists, several red areas over back and chest<br>Cut to inner mouth<br>Redness to both wrists<br>General redness to both wrists | Redness to both wrists<br>Redness to left wrist |
| February 2006 | 0 | 0 | Both wrists reddened<br>Both wrists reddened, superficial scratch<br>Left wrist swelling<br>Red to wrists<br>Redness to both wrists<br>Left wrist red, swollen and tender<br>Redness to both wrists | Red and swollen right knuckle |
| March 2006 | 0 | 0 | Painful left wrist<br>Painful left wrist<br>Both wrists reddened<br>Stiffness in left wrist<br>Both wrists red<br>Friction scratches to wrist | Redness to both arms<br>Bleeding from nose or mouth<br>Red marks to left wrist |
| April 2006 | 0 | 0 | Slight redness to top of neck<br>Redness to back of neck and both forearms | 0 |
| May 2006 | 0 | 0 | Both wrists slightly red | Grazes to left eyebrow and left cheekbone |
| June 2006 | 0 | 0 | Two red marks on upper back<br>Slight redness to thumb<br>Graze to left upper back<br>Redness to both wrists<br>Redness to left wrist<br>Abrasion to left shoulder, bruise to right side of temple | Soreness to left wrist<br>Redness to left wrist |
| July 2006 | 0 | 0 | Redness to back and face<br>Injury to wrist<br>Painful right shoulder<br>Right wrist painful | 0 |
| August 2006 | 0 | Cut lip | Slight redness to left wrist | 0 |
| September 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Pain and discomfort to left arm, no treatment required |
| October 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| November 2006 | 0 | 0 | Reddening to both wrists<br>Redness to both wrist areas | Red marks to right cheek, abrasions to left chest wall, scratches to left shoulder, redness to upper body |
| December 2006 | Fracture to left shoulder<br>Fracture to right arm | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | *Lancaster Farms* | *Warren Hill* | *Stoke Heath* | *Parc* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January 2007 | 0 | Graze to right hand | Sore left arm | Pain and discomfort to right arm, no treatment required |
| February 2007 | 0 | 0 | Sore wrists<br>Sore wrists<br>Red marks to both wrists<br>Red marks to both wrists<br>Sore wrists | Redness to both wrists<br>Red nose, scratches to left elbow, swelling to right wrist, redness to both arms |
| March 2007 | 0 | Lump above right eye | Bleeding nose | 0 |
| April 2007 | Dislocation of wrist | Cut to forehead | Marks on left hand<br>Redness to left wrist<br>Redness to right hand | Pains to both wrists<br>Red marks to both arms |
| May 2007 | 0 | 0 | Superficial scratches to left forearm<br>Redness to both wrists<br>Small scratches to left temple<br>Red marks to both wrists<br>Small cut to right finger, small graze to right forearm and red wrists | 0 |
| June 2007 | 0 | 0 | Circular red marks to both wrists | Red marks to left wrist<br>Redness to both arms |
| July 2007 | 0 | 0 | Both wrists red, graze to left wrist<br>Bleeding nose | Redness to both wrists and knuckles<br>Graze to right arm |
| August 2007 | 0 | 0 | Graze to right arm<br>Grazes to both elbows<br>Graze to right cheek<br>Small scratch to forehead<br>Pain in left elbow<br>Redness, small graze under chin<br>Pain in right finger (old fracture) | Redness to both wrists<br>Redness to right hand |
| September 2007 | 0 | 0 | Cuts to left elbow, painful right wrist<br>Cut to fourth right finger<br>Cut to forehead, cut to palm of left hand<br>Graze to lower lip, redness to right shoulder, redness to back of neck | 0 |
| October 2007 | 0 | 0 | Sore wrist<br>Bruising to right clavicle, pain in right wrist | Redness to left wrist, red mark to left side of forehead |
| November 2007 | Two bumps to head | 0 | No data available | Redness to both arms<br>Graze to right knuckle |

## Young Offenders: Learning Disability

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of young offenders who have significant communication difficulties which prevent them from engaging in educational programmes. [172959]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is not available centrally.

Research conducted by Professor Karen Bryan in partnership with HM Prison Service (University of Surrey 2004) found that 60 per cent. of young offenders screened on entering custody were identified as having difficulties with speech, language and communication.

All young offenders receive health screening on reception into prison and in addition will be screened for their educational needs. A general learning needs induction and assessment process is used to help identify learning difficulties and disabilities. As part of this process, education staff are expected to identify concerns about a prisoner's speech and language capability. Where such problems are identified, either as a result of the health screen or the education screen, a referral to an appropriate health professional would be expected.

All young people in custody are required by the Youth Justice Board to participate in education and training. Teaching professionals work with young offenders in small classes to help ensure they receive education which meets their personal needs. Special educational needs coordinators are employed in each young offender institution to assist in meeting the personal needs of young people and to help them get the most from their education in custody.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 17 December 2007*

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Causeway Consultants

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what contracts his Department *(a)* has and *(b)* has had with (i) Causeway Consultants and (ii) White Rock Research and Consultancy; what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* value was of work undertaken; when each piece of work was (i) started and (ii) completed; and if he will make a statement. [172547]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office has not undertaken any contracts with Causeway Consultants or White Rock Research and Consultancy.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171444]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows the amount spent by the NIO and its agencies on Christmas cards, receptions and decorations in the last five full financial years.

£

| *Financial year* | *Cards* | *Receptions* | *Decorations* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 5,342 | 426 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 6,610 | 445 | 1,311 |
| 2004-05 | 6,104 | 5,640 | 574 |
| 2005-06 | 8,149 | 19,161 | 586 |
| 2006-07 | 2,630 | 37,578 | 2,573 |
| Total | 28,835 | 63,250 | 5,044 |

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon emissions produced by his Department in each year since 1997. [172347]

**Mr. Woodward:** My Department contributes data on energy consumption to the Northern Ireland Public Sector Energy Committee annual report. The most up-to-date figures on carbon emissions from energy consumption are contained in the 2005-06 PSEC report and show estimated emissions as being 1,434,000 kg $CO_2$; this is a reduction of 11 per cent. from 2004-05 figures. During this period 17 per cent. of our electricity came from renewable sources; overall, 9 per cent. of our energy came from renewable sources. We have recently invested in biomass heating and solar energy generation at Hillsborough Castle. No figures are available prior to 2004-05.

Since April 2006 emissions from central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset through the Government carbon offsetting fund. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to the fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reduction credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

The DEFRA website provides a comprehensive list of Government carbon offsetting fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund, available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm.

### Departmental Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006. [162425]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W. No reports have been made to the Northern Ireland Office's nominated officers in relation to Northern Ireland civil servants employed within the Department.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6th June 2006. [162426]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W. No allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to the Northern Ireland Office by Northern Ireland civil servant staff since 6 June 2006.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162427]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W. The Northern Ireland Office Guidance on Public Interest Disclosure (whistleblowing) was last revised on 8 April 2005.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171326]

**Mr. Woodward:** From 1 January 2007 to date, the amount spent on overseas hotel accommodation for Northern Ireland Office Ministers is estimated at US$7,608 and €2,692. At current exchange rates this adds up to approximately £5,640.

There were 10 visits in total where overnight overseas accommodation was required. The destinations were Dublin, Boston, New York, Washington DC, Ypres and the Holy See. The Ministers requiring the accommodation were myself, my predecessor the right hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain), the right hon. Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson), and the hon. Member for Liverpool Garston (Maria Eagle).

## OLYMPICS

### Look of London

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics who will be responsible for allocating the £32 million of funding for Look of London; which organisations form Look of London; what the objectives of Look of London are; and what activities it will undertake. [174023]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The purpose of this budget is to help improve the look of streets en route to the Olympic Park and off-Park Olympic venues by assisting with street cleaning and dressing measures such as removing graffiti, repainting street furniture and providing decorative planting. The responsibility for allocation of these funds will be determined nearer the time of the games.

### Olympic Delivery Authority: Finance

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what projects the £500 million contingency funding allocated to the Olympic Delivery Authority will be allocated to; and how much will be allocated to each project. [174020]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* As set out in my written statement to Parliament on 10 December 2007, the distribution of the £500 million allocated programme contingency, by category, is as follows:

| | *Released contingency included in cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| Site preparation and Infrastructure | 177 |
| Venues | 100 |
| Transport | 21 |
| Other Parkwide projects | 208 |
| IBC/MPC, Olympic Village, Programme Delivery and Taxation | (6) |
| | 500 |

I am not able to provide further detail at this stage, as this could compromise the Olympic Delivery Authority's commercial negotiating position and lead to an increase in cost.

### Olympic Games 2012: Finance

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she intends to provide further information about the likely cost of the Olympic village. [174022]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* Commercially confidential negotiations are currently taking place relating to the construction of the Olympic Village. Further information about the development of the Olympic Village will be made available at the appropriate time.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Departmental Data Protection

**Tom Brake:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what plans the Commission has to review its practices involved in transporting personal data; and whether the Commission uses TNT to transport such data. [172286]

**Nick Harvey:** The Clerk of the House has commissioned a review of data and information security which is being led by the Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator. The review is being carried out as a matter of priority. TNT have been used to courier information such as Committee and Delegation papers, artwork and images but only rarely have they been used to transport personal data such as passports and then only in cases of urgency.

### Proof of Identity

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 452W, on proof of identity, who proof-checked the text for the passes. [172922]

**Nick Harvey:** The text was the responsibility of the project team. The punctuation error in the text will be corrected when the current stock of passes is used up.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each Civil Service grade are employed by the Government Equalities Office. [172735]

**Barbara Follett:** The information is supplied in the following table.

The table contains the number of permanent staff employed in their substantive grades as of 12 December 2007. It excludes temporary staff.

| *GEO* | *Permanent staff* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total permanent* |
| Senior Civil Service Pay Band 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Senior Civil Service Pay Band 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Grade 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Grade 7 | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Senior Executive Officer | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| Higher Executive Officer (Fast Stream Development Programme) | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Executive Officer | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Administrative Officer | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 24 | 37 | 61 |

### Politics: Discrimination

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the Government plans to bring forward legislative proposals to protect people from discrimination on the grounds of political belief. [171357]

**Barbara Follett:** The responses to the consultation on proposals for a new Equality Bill are currently being considered. A formal Government response to the consultation will be published in due course.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Prosecutions: Racial Violence

**John Mann:** To ask the Solicitor-General when she expects the conclusions of the Crown Prosecution Service's internal review into the anti-Semitic incidents not resulting in prosecution, and incitement to racial hatred prosecutions to be published. [174164]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is producing a report setting out its detailed response to the recommendations following the All Party Parliamentary Group's Inquiry into Anti-Semitism. The CPS had initially intended to publish its response this autumn, but the analysis of the additional data from police files took longer than anticipated, and the CPS now intends to publish the report early in the new year.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Investigatory Powers

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what investigatory powers the Electoral Commission has; and what further powers the Commission has requested. [173659]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it can require registered political parties, recognised third parties, permitted participants at a referendum, regulated donees and candidates to provide information relating to their financial affairs. A person authorised by the Commission may enter the premises of a registered party, recognised third party or permitted participant to inspect and copy their financial records.

The Commission has called for wider investigative powers to enable it to obtain information from any source that has relevant information.

### Electoral Register: Fraud

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what processes are in place for liaison between the police and the Electoral Commission when dealing with serious breaches of electoral law. [173649]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that arrangements are in place with the Association of Chief Police Officers, individual police forces and prosecution authorities in regard to electoral malpractice. This includes a single point of contact on election issues in each police force in England, Wales and Scotland to deal with such matters.

### Political Parties: Finance

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what guidance the Electoral Commission has given to political parties on making donations via intermediaries and declaring the original donor. [173759]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it publishes "Donations and loans: guidance for political parties in Great Britain", which is available on its website, www.electoralcommission.org.uk. This details the reporting requirements on donations to political parties, including those made on behalf of others.

Similar guidance has been given to political parties in Northern Ireland.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what guidance on compliance with legislation is provided by the Commission to registered treasurers of political parties. [173760]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it provides a range of guidance for registered treasurers of political parties, covering donations, loans, campaign expenditure, policy development grants and statements of accounts. These publications are available on the Commission's website at www.electoralcommission.org.uk

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173531]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department's policy is to use real Christmas trees. The trees are recycled.

### Cinemas

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take action to encourage cinemas to show greater numbers of UK films. [172485]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The UK Film Council provides funding aimed at bringing a wider choice of films to cinemas with a specific emphasis on British films.

For example, they have rolled out the digital screen network, providing 240 screens nationwide with state of the art digital projection equipment in return for a commitment to screen more British films. The success of the first Summer of British Film season this year, with seven classic British films digitally restored and shown in cinemas, is a direct result of this initiative.

The UK Film Council has invested a further £2.5 million to assist the distribution of 53 British films and co-productions. They have given £45 million from the national lottery to British film production, resulting in worldwide revenues of £410 million since.

The UK Film Council also gives £7.9 million a year to regional film bodies across England (e.g. Film London), all working to create a clear film strategy for each English region and provide cash support for production.

Government have also established a new tax relief framework which directly targets filmmakers producing cultural British films. As of September this year more than 100 films were certified as British for the new tax relief, more than 30 claims had been received by HMRC and around £35 million of tax credit had been paid out.

### Departmental Buildings

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of new buildings approved by his Department were built to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method *(a)* very good and *(b)* excellent standard in each of the last five years; and what the construction cost of those buildings was. [172282]

**Margaret Hodge:** DCMS has not constructed any new buildings within the last five years.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [169896]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173847]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport employs three members of staff, one part-time grade B, one full-time grade C and one full-time grade D, to promote equality and diversity in the Department.

Staff costs are as follows:

*Diversity costs*

| | *FTE* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | £<br>*Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade B | 0.8 | 28,301 | 30,667 | 31,218 | 90,186 |
| Grade C | 1 | 25,386 | 27,653 | 28,600 | 81,639 |
| Grade D | 1 | 20,537 | 22,793 | 23,037 | 66,367 |
| Total | | | | | 238,192 |

Information about the total cost of promoting equality and diversity in the Department could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164930]

**Margaret Hodge:** One civil servant supports the special advisers in my office. This civil servant provides administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Civil Service Code.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

### Departmental Redundancies

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175334]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** There have been no redundancies in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the period from 30 June 2003 to 30 June 2006.

### Departmental Statistics

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list the statistical information which his Department has responsibility to collect; and in each case whether that information is collected on a *(a)* national or *(b)* regional basis. [173935]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has responsibility to supply tourism statistics for the UK to the statistical office of the European Commission (Eurostat) in line with the tourism statistics directive. This requires information at both a national and regional level on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. The data are collected by the Office for National Statistics and by the National Tourist Boards and are supplied to Eurostat by DCMS.

The Department also collects and publishes a series of regular and ongoing statistical products under the professional management of the Head of Profession for statistics. Statistical information collected and produced outside the professional management of the Head of Profession for statistics, including by the Department's non-departmental public bodies, is not listed.

The Department currently publishes two products classed as 'National Statistics':

Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport; and

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistics.

Information for Taking Part is collected from private households in England and results are primarily published at a national level, though some information has also been published by Government office region where possible.

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment statistics are collected from licensing authorities in England and Wales and are published at both the aggregate England and Wales level and on an individual authority basis.

The Department has also previously published a third National Statistics product—Betting Licence Statistics. However, this publication is being reviewed in light of changes in gambling laws.

The Department also annually publishes two non-National Statistics products:

Creative Industries Economic Estimates; and

Television Exports Statistics.

Creative Industries economic estimates are published at a UK level only, and are based on business information collected by the Office for National Statistics. The television exports survey collects information directly from members of the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (PACT). Published results therefore relate to the total exports across PACT members only.

Statistical information on the number of venues in England and Wales staging live music has also been collected on an infrequent basis. This information was last published in 2004, with an update to be released later this month.

## Digital Broadcasting: Television

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the review commissioned from the National Audit Office by the BBC Trust on the BBC's preparedness for digital switchover, with particular reference to the effect of the timing of future procurement on the BBC's ability to apply all the lessons of the Copeland experience. [173951]

**James Purnell:** The NAO report is part of a programme of value for money work agreed with the BBC Trust by the Comptroller and Auditor General, under the new Charter and Agreement arrangements, and responsibility for considering audit reports and deciding on any follow-up action rests with the Trust.

I have seen the NAO report and the BBC response and note that the Trust will ensure that where possible the Copeland lessons are taken account of in the contract for the help scheme.

## Film Industry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to raise the profile of British film. [172186]

**Margaret Hodge:** Last year, the UK Film Council's Distribution and Exhibition Fund provided £527,405 to enable British films reach a wider audience.

In addition, the Film Council has rolled out the digital screen network (DSN). This has provided 240 screens nationwide with state-of-the-art digital projection equipment in return for a commitment to screening more British and specialised films. A total of 1,305 different British/specialised films have played across the network to date with 94,277 film showings.

The Film Council also operates an annual £2 million Prints and Advertising Fund to assist the wider distribution and better marketing of British films. Last year they also paid out £4.1 million with the New Cinema Fund and £5.9 million with the Premiere Fund, both for production.

Film festivals in the UK are often a showcase for British film. The recently announced Film Festival Fund will allocate £4.5 million over three years to UK festivals.

## Gambling

**Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is planning to take in response to changes in the level of activity in the *(a)* gaming industry and *(b)* seaside arcades and bingo halls since the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005. [174463]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department is engaging in a constructive dialogue with the British Amusement Catering Trade Association, the main trade body which represents the gaming machines sector, the Bingo Association and other trade bodies with an interest in the sector. I have made it clear to these organisations that I will be happy to consider any evidence they can provide, in relation to the difficult trading conditions that some operators say they are currently experiencing, and any proposals for remedial action.

However, the Government's principal priority remains to protect the public. We will need to be satisfied that any proposals put forward for remedial action by the industry do not have an adverse impact in terms of the licensing objectives of the Act.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the Gambling Act 2005 on the *(a)* revenue and *(b)* employment levels of (i) adult gaming centres, (ii) family entertainment centres, (iii) gaming machine manufacturers, (iv) gaming machine suppliers and operators, (v) bingo halls and (vi) licensed betting offices since its implementation; [174464]

(2) what plans his Department has to review *(a)* gaming machine stake and prize levels and *(b)* numbers of gaming machines permitted in different types of gambling premises following the publication of the British Gaming Prevalence Survey 2007. [174560]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department is engaging in a constructive dialogue with the British Amusement Catering Trade Association, the main trade body which represents the gaming machines sector, and other trade bodies with an interest in the sector. I have made it clear to these organisations that I will be happy to consider any evidence they can provide, in relation to the difficult trading conditions that some operators say they are currently experiencing, and any proposals for remedial action.

However, the Government's principal priority remains to protect the public. We will need to be satisfied that any proposals put forward for remedial action by the industry do not have an adverse impact in terms of the licensing objectives of the Act.

**Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the evidential basis was for the determination of the stake and prize levels for category B2 and B3 gaming machines; [174496]

(2) what the evidential basis was for the decision to restrict the number of B3 machines permitted in adult gaming centres and bingo halls of any size to four under the Gambling Act 2005; [174497]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to amend the existing B3 machine entitlement in adult gaming centres and bingo halls to allow larger premises an increase in the number of B3 machines in proportion to the total number of gaming machines. [174498]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The number of category B gaming machines permitted in different types of premises is provided for in section 172 of the Gambling Act 2005. The Act was approved by Parliament following extensive consultation with industry, and many other interested parties, and lengthy pre-legislative scrutiny.

The stakes and prizes applying to category B gaming machines, and all other categories of gaming machine, and the different sub-categories of category B gaming machines that can be made available in different types of gambling premises, are set by the Categories of Gaming Machine Regulations 2007. The regulations were made following extensive public consultation and were subject to the affirmative resolution procedure requiring debates in, and approval by, both Houses of Parliament.

Under the Act, adult gaming centres are, for the first time, permitted to make up to four B3 gaming machines available, and can continue to make available an unlimited number of category C and D gaming machines. Bingo halls have retained their entitlement of up to four category B3 gaming machines, and to an unlimited number of category C and D gaming machines.

The maximum stake and prize levels for, what became under the Act, category C gaming machines were increased to 50p and £35 in October 2006. The maximum stake for what became category B3 machines was doubled to £1 at the same time.

My Department is engaging in a constructive dialogue with the British Amusement Catering Trade Association, the main trade body which represents the gaming machines sector, and other trade bodies with an interest in the sector. I have made it clear to these organisations that I will be happy to consider any evidence they can provide, in relation to the difficult trading conditions that some operators say they are currently experiencing, and any proposals for remedial action.

However, the Government's principal priority remains to protect the public. We will need to be satisfied that any proposals put forward for remedial action by the industry do not have an adverse impact in terms of the licensing objectives of the Act.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of whether the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005 has caused migration from soft to hard forms of gambling. [175197]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Act 2005 came into force on 1 September 2007. The new Act introduces, for the first time, appropriate safeguards for the different forms of gambling permitted by the Act to ensure that children and vulnerable people are protected. It is too early to assess the impact of the Act, since it has only been in effect for a little over three months.

### Licensing

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received from police representatives on the effects of the Licensing Act 2003. [174830]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** We frequently receive views from bodies representing the police, such as the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), and from individual police forces on how the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) is working. Recent feedback has included examples of how the new powers are being used to make a positive impact and how flexible closing times have helped spread dispersal and reduce peaks of alcohol-related disorder.

I value the input of the police in identifying where the 2003 Act could do better, which is why we actively seek their views when considering adjustments to the regime.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to review the Licensing Act 2003; and if he will make a statement. [174831]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** As the Prime Minister reiterated in July, we are monitoring and reviewing the impact of the Act and have been since it came into force. We expect to complete an evaluation of the impact of the Act in the new year.

### Lifeguards: Qualifications

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many lifeguards have *(a)* trained for and *(b)* passed their National Pool Lifeguard Qualification in England (i) since 1997 and (ii) in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available. [173792]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The National Pool Lifeguard Qualification in England is the responsibility of the Institute of Qualified Lifeguards (IQL), which is affiliated to the Royal Life Saving Society UK, the recognised national governing body for Life Saving. The IQL has advised that:

(i) since 1999, 301,000 people were awarded the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification in the United Kingdom (pre-1999 figures were unavailable);

(ii) between January and the end of November this year, 31,000 people were awarded the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification in the United Kingdom.

These figures include both newly qualified lifeguards and lifeguards renewing their qualification.

The numbers of people training for the qualification and England-only figures were not available from the IQL.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding has been allocated to promoting Britain as a tourist destination through the 2012 Olympics. [173034]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* VisitBritain's strategic review of tourism, announced by my Department on 24 October 2007, will look at priorities for British tourism including the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. Better coordination of resources and focusing on priorities will help us deliver the tourism legacy of the 2012 Games.

Funding to promote Britain as a tourist destination in 2012 comes from many sources, of which VisitBritain is just one.

### Olympic Games 2012: Voluntary Work

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect the London 2012 Olympic Games will have on levels of participation in voluntary work. [172082]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games estimate that they are likely to require up to 70,000 volunteers for the 2012 Games. Since the bid 160,000 people have registered an interest in volunteering on the London 2012 database. The Personal Best Programme, which has just completed its pilot phase, aims to encourage participants from deprived backgrounds with low level qualifications into training and volunteering using the power of the Games.

In addition, the Government are currently examining other ways to promote volunteering more widely using the excitement and enthusiasm generated by the Games as part of the preparations for the launch of the Legacy Action Plan in the new year.

### Reviews

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to initiate; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [169938]

**Margaret Hodge:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 106-10W.

### Sports Direct: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 661W, on Sports Direct: finance, if he will place in the Library a copy of the feasibility study. [174134]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I will place a copy of the Sport Direct feasibility study (from 2005) in the House Library.

Since the study was completed, alternative options were considered to fulfil the Sport Direct manifesto commitment, one of which has now been implemented.

From 19 November 2007, information on accessing sports facilities has been made available on the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk. This option was considered the most effective and efficient way of meeting the manifesto commitment.

### Sports: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Government have spent on sports facilities in Coventry since 1997. [170305]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Since 1997 sports facilities in Coventry have benefited from £8,454,030 from DCMS Exchequer and Sport England lottery funding.

### Sportsgrounds

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government have taken to improve safety at football stadiums since 1997. [170303]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Safety at football grounds is the responsibility of the clubs. The Government, through the Football Licensing Authority, licenses spectator accommodation, keeps under review safety certification by local authorities and provides guidance on good practice relating to the management both of the grounds and of spectator safety.

The main improvements in England and Wales since 1997 in which the FLA has played a key role have been as follows:

the increase in the number of all-seated Premier League, Championship and international football grounds from 47 to 69;

the upgrading of all remaining standing accommodation to ensure that it has continuous crush barriers of the appropriate design, strength and spacing between radial gangways;

the development and promulgation of national steward training qualifications at NVQ level 2 or equivalent;

the revision of the 1997 edition of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (to be published early in the new year); and

the issue of detailed guidance on accessible stadia, control rooms, concourses, safety certification, contingency planning, exercise planning and briefing/debriefing.

These improvements have been introduced alongside a range of measures that have been taken to control disorder which have also contributed significantly to improving public safety in grounds.

### Swimming

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage people to participate in swimming. [173790]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Swimming is the country's largest participation sport and, since 1995, over £251 million of National Lottery funding has been invested in capital and revenue community projects.

Sport England supports Everyday Swim, a national initiative run by the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) aimed at breaking down barriers to swimming and getting more people into the swimming pool. Sport England is contributing £3 million of Lottery funding to the programme, with the ASA providing an equal amount of partnership funding.

Sport England also provides £1.7 million per annum of National Lottery funding to the ASA to support the delivery of its One Stop Plan. This funding is used to improve the sport's infrastructure by focusing on clubs, coaches and volunteers.

Swimming is part of the Community Club Development Programme and, since 2003, more than £1.9 million of Exchequer funding has been provided to support capital improvements in 15 swimming clubs.

### Video Games: Children

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to his answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 643W, on video games: children, who expressed concerns over the relationship between video games and behaviour; and when and to whom such concerns were expressed. [173784]

**Margaret Hodge:** Our consideration of this issue reflects wider public concern expressed in a range of forums. In addition to this, we have received correspondence from a range of individuals and groups of school children—often through their constituency MP—who express concern about a possible link between playing video games that feature violence and violent behaviour in real life.

### Young People: Lifeguards

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to encourage young people to train as lifeguards. [173791]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Sport England currently recognises Life Saving and Surf Life Saving, but neither governing body—the Royal Life Saving Society UK and the Surf Life Saving Association of Great Britain—receives funding from Sport England.

The Surf Life Saving Association of Great Britain was awarded £8,000 in 2006-07 to support the employment of a sports development officer in the south-west to coordinate events aimed at increasing participation in Surf Life Saving. This award was made from the 'Impact and Improvement Fund', which is operated by the Central Council for Physical Recreation and funded by Sport England.

Since 2005, one award of £210,723 has been made by Sport England to Hayle Surf Life Saving Club in Cornwall for the construction of new premises.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Children: Poverty

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to meet the *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2020 child poverty targets. [172088]

**Caroline Flint:** The Department is committed to helping to achieve the ambitious targets set by the Government to halve child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating it by 2020. Significant progress has been made with 600,000 children lifted out of relative poverty since 1998-99 but there remains much more to be done.

Work, for those who can, remains the best and most sustainable route out of poverty and this sits at the heart of the Department's child poverty strategy. In March 2007 the Department published its refreshed child poverty strategy "Working for Children" which focuses around three broad themes. These are: increasing support for lone parents through increased rights and responsibilities; helping people to stay in work and make progress in their jobs; and increasing the family focus of employment programmes. In "Ready for Work: Full employment in our generation", published on 13 December as a result of the responses to our Green Paper "In Work, Better Off: next steps to full employment", we have announced increased support and obligations for lone parents who are claiming income support solely based on being a lone parent. They will have to move onto a more appropriate benefit when their youngest child is aged 12 and over from October 2008; 10 and over from October 2009; and seven and over from October 2010.

We will increase the support for lone parents to return to and stay in work by: increasing the work trials period from three to up to six weeks; group seminars; job interview guarantee; work focused pre-work training; extension and expansion of New Deal Plus for Lone Parents pilots; quarterly work focused interviews; national extension and retention of in-work credit; in-work advisory support from Jobcentre Plus advisers; national rollout of the in-work emergency discretion fund; piloting the provision of up-front child care costs in London; and a new credit to help them be better off in work. Lone parents on JSA will also be supported by our integrated employment and skills service and the flexible New Deal.

We have also recently announced the formation of a Joint Child Poverty Unit bringing together the expertise of officials in both the DWP and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The unit will also be working closely with HM Treasury and other Government departments to ensure that there is a coherent cross-Government approach to tackling child poverty.

### Debts

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many cases his Department has issued a debt recovery waiver with regard to the money owed to his Department where there are very special circumstances under medical grounds. [173129]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** In 2006, 37 cases received a full or partial waiver of an outstanding benefit overpayment on medical grounds. Between January and November 2007, that figure was 63. Prior to 2006, the reason for the waiver was not recorded.

### Departmental Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171430]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department does not have any account codes or categories specifically identifying spend on Christmas cards, decorations or parties; to try to identify any such expenditure would incur a disproportionate amount of time and cost.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been *(a)* made available to and *(b)* taken up by his Department's agencies for the purchase of Christmas decorations. [171847]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The Department does not have any account codes or categories specifically identifying spend on Christmas decorations and to try and identify any such expenditure would involve a disproportionate amount of time and cost.

### Financial Assistance Scheme

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish Andrew Young's final report on the financial assistance scheme. [175069]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Today.

### Financial Assistance Scheme: Expenditure

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* legal fees for the financial assistance scheme in each month since March; and if he will make a statement. [171550]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The information is as follows.

£

| *Current financial year 2007-08* | *Expenditure* | *Legal fees* | *Total in month spend* |
|---|---|---|---|
| April 2007 | 126,436 | 0 | 126,436 |
| May 2007 | 124,408 | 0 | 124,408 |
| June 2007 | 137,749 | 0 | 137,749 |
| July 2007[1] | 544,794 | 0 | 544,794 |
| August 2007 | 153,413 | 0 | 153,413 |
| September 2007[2] | 279,951 | 0 | 279,951 |
| October 2007 | 163,836 | 0 | 163,836 |
| Total April 2007 to October 2007 (Actual) | 1,530,587 | 0 | 1,530,587 |
| Overall total to October 2007-08 | | 1,530,587 | |

[1] July costs include an element for IT (maintenance) annual costs circa £451,434.

[2] September costs include an element for IT (licence and change requests) annual costs circa £159,000.

### Jobcentre Plus: Stroud

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many telephone calls have been made to the St. Austell call centre by benefit recipients *(a)* through the Job Centre Plus office in Stroud and *(b)* using outside lines but registered through the Stroud office in each week since it opened; [171006]

(2) when he plans to make an evaluation of the effectiveness of the call centre at St. Austell. [171007]

**Caroline Flint:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves, dated 14 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked Lesley Strathie to reply to your questions asking how many telephone calls have been made to the St Austell call centre by benefit recipients through the Job Centre Plus office in Stroud. Specifically, how many are using outside lines but registered through the Stroud office in each week since it opened, and when he plans to make an evaluation of the effectiveness of the call centre at St Austell. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

The centre in St Austell is not a call centre but a Benefit Delivery Centre (BDC), dealing with the assessment of customers' claims to benefit. Although BDCs do have records of call volumes by benefit, the telephony system in place does not record where the customer is calling from. I am therefore unable to answer your question about the number of calls made by our Stroud customers.

In line with every Benefit Delivery Centre, St Austell reviews its performance on a regular basis. St Austell is currently meeting Actual Average Clearance Time targets for Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support and Incapacity Benefit claims.

I hope this is helpful.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is his policy that parents of disabled children who are not claiming disability living allowance should be encouraged to claim jobseeker's allowance. [170679]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Parents of disabled children can claim jobseeker's allowance. For jobseeker's allowance to be paid, customers must meet conditions of entitlement, which includes being available for and actively seeking work. However, customers with caring responsibilities, such as parents of disabled children, can limit their availability for work to a minimum of 16 hours per week and do not have to be immediately available for work, providing they are willing and able to start work if given one week's notice and attend an interview if given 48 hours' notice.

In the recently published Green Paper, 'In Work, Better Off: Next Steps to Full Employment', we have outlined proposals for lone parents who are able to work. Lone parents who also have other reasons for claiming income support, e.g. if they have children for whom the middle or highest rate care component of disability living allowance (DLA) is payable, or they claim carer's allowance (CA), or are fostering will continue to be eligible to claim income support.

Details of our proposals are currently being finalised following the consultation and we will publish our response soon.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the resources which would be required to implement a more flexible jobseeker's allowance regime for lone parents whose youngest child has reached 12, including resources *(a)* for training for advisers and *(b)* for decision makers. [170678]

**Caroline Flint:** Initial estimates around the resource requirements of our proposals for lone parents were presented in the Impact Assessment accompanying the Green Paper 'In work, Better Off: Next Steps to Full Employment'. They were based on a number of assumptions, pending completion of the consultation exercise.

Details of our proposals are currently being finalised following the consultation. We will publish our response, together with an updated Impact Assessment soon. More detailed costs and implementation plans will be worked up over the coming months.

### National Insurance: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers have been issued to EU A8 nationals in *(a)* each year and *(b)* each quarter since 1 January 2004, broken down by nationality; and what the percentage change was in each period, broken down by nationality. [162689]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: The available information from National Statistics is in the following table.

*EU A8 nationals entering the UK registrations*

| *Year of registration date* | *Republic of Estonia* | *Republic of Latvia* | *Republic of Lithuania* | *Hungary* | *Poland* | *Republic of Slovenia* | *Czech Republic* | *Slovak Republic* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Number* | | | | | | | | |
| 2003-04 | 230 | 720 | 3,860 | 980 | 11,200 | 240 | 1,190 | 1,400 |
| 2004-05 | 1,730 | 6,520 | 15,790 | 3,880 | 62,550 | 770 | 7,420 | 11,470 |
| 2005-06 | 3,030 | 14,320 | 30,880 | 8,600 | 171,360 | 490 | 13,190 | 27,430 |
| 2006-07 | 2,060 | 11,090 | 24,110 | 10,880 | 222,760 | 530 | 11,750 | 28,840 |
| *Percentage change from previous year* | | | | | | | | |
| 2003-04 | 35.3 | 71.4 | 109.8 | 34.2 | 87.3 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 42.9 |
| 2004-05 | 652.2 | 805.6 | 309.1 | 295.9 | 458.5 | 220.8 | 523.5 | 719.3 |
| 2005-06 | 75.1 | 119.6 | 95.6 | 121.6 | 174.0 | -36.4 | 77.8 | 139.1 |
| 2006-07 | -32.0 | -22.6 | -21.9 | 26.5 | 30.0 | 8.2 | -10.9 | 5.1 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
2. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
3. Years referred to are financial years. Reliable quarterly estimates from National Statistics are not currently available.

*Source:*

100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System at 14 May 2007.

### New Deal for Musicians

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the new deal for musicians has cost in each of the last 10 years. [166608]

**Caroline Flint:** New deal for musicians (NDfM) started in 1999. Information on the cost of NDfM in each year since then is in the following table.

*New deal for musicians*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 2.3 |

*New deal for musicians*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 5.8 |
| 2001-02 | 6.0 |
| 2002-03 | 4.7 |
| 2003-04 | 3.8 |
| 2004-05 | 4.0 |
| 2005-06 | 2.4 |
| 2006-07 | 1.5 |

*Notes:*
1. Spend excludes admin costs.
2. Spend for 2006-07 is confirmed spend.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus Finance Directorates

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have entered the new deal for musicians in each of the last 10 years; [166609]

(2) how many people have left the new deal for musicians and *(a)* gone into sustained employment, *(b)* gone into employment, *(c)* returned to or continued receiving benefit payments immediately on leaving, *(d)* returned to benefit payments within six months and *(e)* returned to benefit payments within one year. [166610]

**Caroline Flint:** New deal for musicians (NDfM) aims to help aspiring unemployed musicians into a sustainable career in the music industry, either as artists under contract or unsupported self-employed artists within the music industry.

New deal for musicians is delivered as part of the mainstream new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus programmes; participant numbers and job outcomes for new deal for musicians are now incorporated into statistics for these mainstream programmes.

The available information on the number of people who have entered new deal for musicians in each year is in the following table.

*Number of participants in new deal for musicians*

| | Total in year (£) |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 1,515 |
| 2000 | 3,484 |
| 2001 | 4,015 |
| 2002 | 2,859 |
| 2003 (Up to 28 August 2003) | 1,590 |
| Total | 13,463 |

*Source:*
New deal for musicians database.

Separate information on the number of people who have left new deal for musicians for employment is only available up to November 2005 and only available for those leaving for sustained jobs. Up to the end of November 2005, 3,880[1] people had left the programme for sustained employment.

The remaining requested information is not available.

[1] *Source:*

New deal evaluation database, DWP information directorate

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much it cost to establish the new deal for musicians' website www.ndfmlearning.com; and how much it cost to operate it in the last 12 months. [166611]

**Caroline Flint:** The new deal for musicians' website at www.ndfmlearning.com provides access to open learning materials relevant to the new deal for musicians programme and employment in the music industry.

The website cost £17,860 to establish and £5,550 to operate in the last 12 months.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much it cost to develop and produce the wordbooks for the new deal for musicians. [166612]

**Caroline Flint:** New deal for musicians (NDfM) aims to help aspiring unemployed musicians into a sustainable career in the music industry, either as artists under contract or unsupported self-employed artists within the music industry.

There are nine new deal for musicians workbooks covering subjects such as: jobs in the music industry; recording and production; copyright, and performing. They are available as paper copies and as downloads from the website www.ndfm.learning.com.

The total cost up to November 2007 of developing and producing the workbooks is £269,059.

## New Deal Schemes: Music

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many hits the ndfmlearning.com website received in each of the last 10 years for which data are available. [166728]

**Caroline Flint:** The new deal for musicians website www.ndfmlearning.com was launched on the 21 July 2005 and was fully accessible from the 23 February 2006. Full data on the number of visits to the website is only available from that date.

In the period 23 February 2006 to 31 December 2006 there were 8,583 visitors to the site and they viewed 24,841 web pages; in the period 1 January 2007 to 31 October 2007[1] there were 8,375 visitors and they viewed 25,187 web pages.

[1] Latest available data.

## New Deal for Young People: Employment

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the entrants to the new deal for young people found sustained employment during *(a)* the four month Gateway period and *(b)* the period of activity on mandatory options in each year since the inception of the programme; and what percentage of those engaged in each of the four options found sustained employment. [162678]

**Caroline Flint:** New deal for young people (NDYP) is mandatory for people aged 18 to 24 who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for six months.

Participants enter a Gateway lasting up to 16 weeks during which personal advisers provide intensive support to improve the job prospects of participants. Those who have not found work at the end of the Gateway period are referred onto one of four options:

The employment option;

Full-time education and training option;

Voluntary sector option; and

Environment task force option.

People who have not found work through the options are referred to the follow-through period of NDYP.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

### New Deal Schemes

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of those leaving *(a)* the new deal for young people and *(b)* New Deal 25 plus recommenced claiming benefits within (i) six months and (ii) 12 months of leaving the scheme in each year since the schemes began. [162359]

**Caroline Flint:** People who have been on the new deal programme who subsequently return to benefits may be in receipt of out of work or inactive benefits and may not, due to changes in personal circumstances, necessarily return to the benefit they were claiming before they participated in the new deal.

Information on the percentage of leavers from new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus who recommenced claiming benefits within six and 12 months is in the following table.

*Percentage of leavers from new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus who recommenced claiming benefits within six and 12 months of leaving the programmes*

| | *New deal for young people* | | *New deal 25 plus* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *6 months* | *12 months* | *6 months* | *12 months* |
| 1998 | 14 | 36 | 14 | 31 |
| 1999 | 29 | 50 | 17 | 33 |
| 2000 | 31 | 52 | 18 | 35 |
| 2001 | 32 | 53 | 19 | 35 |
| 2002 | 32 | 53 | 21 | 37 |
| 2003 | 31 | 51 | 21 | 37 |
| 2004 | 30 | 50 | 22 | 38 |
| 2005 | 28 | 48 | 21 | 36 |
| 2006 | 27 | 47 | 21 | 36 |

*Notes:*

1. Latest data is to May 2007, therefore, allowing for a 12 month gap, only new deal leavers to May 2006 are included within the 12 month column; allowing for a 6 month gap, only new deal leavers to November 2006 are included within the 6 month column.
2. People claiming within 6 months will also be included as claiming within 12 months.
3. The benefits included are: incapacity benefits, invalid care allowance, income support, jobseeker's allowance, severe disablement allowance and widows/bereavement benefits.
4. A benefit claim has only been included if it is a new claim after leaving new deal. People can leave new deal and continue a benefit claim; these people are not included as returning to benefit.

*Source:*

Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

### Pensioners

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners took up pension credits in each of the last five years. [173560]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The answer is in the following table.

The numbers of households receiving, and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

| | *Number of households receiving pension credit* | *Number of individual beneficiaries of pension credit* |
|---|---|---|
| November 2003 | 2.08 | 2.50 |
| May 2004 | 2.49 | 3.02 |
| May 2005 | 2.68 | 3.26 |
| May 2006 | 2.72 | 3.32 |
| May 2007 | 2.73 | 3.34 |

*Notes:*

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest ten thousand.
2. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003 so data for 2003 is as at November.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
4. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners, some of whom may be under 60 years of age.
5. Time series data includes minimum income guarantee (MIG) cases: households on income support where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 or over. About 1.8 million MIG cases transferred to pension credit on 6 October 2003.

*Source:*

DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

### Pensions

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contingency plans he has put in place should pension and benefits claimants be unable to access their payments before Christmas 2007. [175077]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Our contingency plans, which are flexible and proven, include prioritising our resources to ensure that our customers receive their payments on time. Every departmental business area has business continuity plans in place to support this top priority. Emergency payments can be made using our out of hours service where required.

### Poverty: Children

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date the first meeting of the Joint Child Poverty Unit was held. [175090]

**Caroline Flint:** The formation of the Child Poverty Unit was announced at the Barnados 'Paying the Price of Child Poverty' conference on 29 October and the unit formally came into being on 12 November. It brings together officials from the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Children, Schools and Families who now work side by side.

### Social Fund: Administration

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on average per year on the administration of the Social Fund in the last five years; and what proportion of this has been spent on the delivery of frontline services. [172630]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to reply to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Mel Groves, dated 14 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning how much has been spent on average per year on the administration of the Social Fund in the last five years; and what proportion of this has been spent on the delivery of front line services. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

Our unit cost information only goes back to 2003/4. The average expenditure per year on the administration of Social Fund over the last four years is £74m. In 2006/7, 86% of the total expenditure was on the delivery of customer facing services.

I hope this is helpful.

### Social Security Benefits

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people and *(b)* lone parents lost all of their benefit as a result of not attending repeat work-focused interviews at Jobcentre Plus offices in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [172710]

**Caroline Flint** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* Primary claimants of inactive benefits i.e. sick and disabled people, lone parents, carers and widow/ers are required to attend repeat Work Focused Interviews (WFIs).

Sanctions are applied as a last resort following failure to attend a mandatory WFI without good reason. The sanction ends when the claimant complies with their obligation to attend the WFI, or when the requirement to attend is waived.

Most repeat WFIs are carried out with disabled people, under the Pathways regime, and lone parents. The number of people in these categories that have lost all, rather than some of their benefit, due to failing to attend repeat WFIs is less than 10 in each of the last three years. Under Data Protection rules, a more specific number cannot be provided.

The requested information for carers, widow(er)s and disabled people not under the Pathways regime could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. People in these groups have very few repeat WFIs and it is very unlikely that any will have lost their benefits due to failing to attend such interviews.

### Translation Services

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons were for the decision to terminate the contracts of suppliers of translation services to his Department and change the procurement process for these services. [169435]

**Mrs. McGuire:** There are no contracts which have been cancelled for the provision of translation services since the current DWP framework for translation services was awarded in December 2005.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what rate per 1,000 words is charged by the companies employed to translate documents for his Department; [169436]

(2) what rate was paid to translators per 1,000 words providing direct services to his Department in the last 12 months; [169437]

(3) which companies have been awarded a formal contract for providing translation services to his Department; [169438]

(4) which translators carried out work for his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid to those translators. [169439]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department is currently conducting a procurement exercise for the provision of translation services and as such, under the commercial and restricted information rules (sections 41 and 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and section 43 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006), I regret that the information requested, in particular current pricing rates, cannot be released as this may be seen as a breach of competition rules.

### Welfare Tax Credits: EC Action

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 426, on tax credits, whether the Government held discussions during the UK presidency of the EU on reform of EC Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72; and whether it has done so since then. [174672]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** No discussions on reform of EC Regulations 1408/71 or 574/72 were held during the UK presidency of the EU in the second half of 2005.

Early in 2004, under the Irish presidency, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament had reached agreement on all but the Annexes to Regulation 883/2004, which updates Regulation 1408/71. This will start to apply when its implementing Regulation comes into force. Discussions on the details of an implementing Regulation to replace Regulation 574/72 began, under the Austrian presidency, in February 2006 and are continuing.

Proposals for the Annexes to Regulation 883/2004 have also been under discussion since early in 2006. Minor miscellaneous amendments to the Regulations are also made approximately annually.

Parliament is kept informed of these proposals and of the progress of negotiations through the scrutiny process.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Conrad Black

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Prime Minister what communications there were between the Government and the Government of Canada on the proposal to appoint Conrad Black to the United Kingdom peerage relating to his Canadian citizenship at that time. [173096]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my predecessor (right hon. Tony Blair) on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 618W.

### Pensions

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has received on the timetable for pension and benefits payments in the period before Christmas 2007. [174867]

**The Prime Minister:** Since 27 June 2007 my Office has received approximately 2,170 letters about pensions and benefits. Given the volume of correspondence I receive, thousands of letters each week covering a broad spectrum of issues, my office records letters by subject rather than by view expressed.

### Regional Government: Public Participation

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) who was invited to take part in the consultation on the Government's draft legislative programme by the Ministers for *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* London, *(e)* the South East, *(f)* the South West, *(g)* the East Midlands, *(h)* the West Midlands and *(i)* the East of England; [169595]

(2) what representations he has received on central government policy relevant to economic growth and sustainable development from the ministers for *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* London, *(e)* the South East, *(f)* the South West, *(g)* the East Midlands, *(h)* the West Midlands and *(i)* the East of England; [169597]

(3) which high level events have been attended by the Ministers for *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* London, *(e)* the South East, *(f)* the South West, *(g)* the East Midlands, *(h)* the West Midlands and *(i)* the East of England. [169599]

**Hazel Blears:** I have been asked to reply.

Ministers in their Regional Ministers' role do not make policy decisions for their regions; they are Central Government's advocates in the regions.

All Regional Ministers consulted with stakeholders on the Government draft legislative programme in September and October. In addition a number wrote to interested parties inviting their views. Among those consulted were representatives from local authorities, business, public institutions, voluntary and community sectors, Members of Parliament and Peers, and environmental groups.

Regional Ministers have contributed to the development of Government policy across a range of areas, including economic growth and sustainable development, since their establishment in June.

All Regional Ministers have taken part in a number of high level engagements within their regions, including meetings with local authorities and other organisations, attendance at stakeholder events and visits to local projects and communities.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### 101 Calls

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what sum she has allocated to the 101 helpline service in the Northumbria police authority area; and how many calls have been received. [172480]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* From 31 December 2005 to 31 December 2007, £4,280,756 has been allocated to fund the implementation and operation of the 101 service in the Northumbria police authority area. The service has received approximately 250,000 calls from the public since being launched on 3 July 2006.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime Prevention

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authorities have contacted her Department expressing an interest in establishing an alcohol disorder zone since the detailed guidance on the scheme was published. [173834]

**Mr. Coaker:** None. The consultation with stakeholders regarding alcohol disorder zones (ADZ), following the receipt of Royal Assent to the enabling provisions of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, included the Local Government Association and focused on the detail of the policy rather than seeking to determine the likely take-up of the statutory power by local areas. The guidance outlines that an ADZ can only be designated jointly with the police force, and we would not expect therefore to receive representations from local authorities until final ratification of the statutory instrument in Parliament.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Sales

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police basic command units are participating in the Responsible Alcohol Sales Campaign; and how much funding for this purpose each will receive from her Department. [173832]

**Mr. Coaker:** 93 police basic command units nationally are currently participating in the Responsible Alcohol Sales Campaign. Listing the units taking part in the live campaign at this time may undermine the influence and impact of the campaign.

The Home Office is providing £250,000 funding for the campaign.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria will be used to assess the effectiveness of the Responsible Alcohol Sales Campaign. [173833]

**Mr. Coaker:** Evaluation of the campaign will be conducted using the data returns from each participating BCU and assessing performance against the criteria for participation in the campaign compared to those areas that did not participate in the campaign.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of retailers who have sold *(a)* tobacco and *(b)* alcohol products to underage customers in each local authority area in Hampshire since 2005. [172818]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the number of defendants proceeded against for offences relating to the sale of *(a)* tobacco, and *(b)* alcohol to underage persons can be found in Table 1.

In addition, information on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 and over for offences relating to the sale of *(b)* alcohol to underage persons can be found in Table 2.

Court proceedings and PND data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

The Home Office does not routinely record or hold information in relation to the proportion of tobacco sales at the national or local level.

Following the Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaign (TUSAC) 2007 the proportion of underage alcohol sales in Hampshire through the test purchase failure rate of targeted perceived problem premises was 15 per cent.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of selling alcohol, or tobacco to underage persons in Hampshire police force area for the years 2005 to 2006*[1, 2, 3]

| *Statute* | *Offence description* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A and B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2001 S.1 | Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises | 11 | 2 |
| Licensing Act 1964 S. 181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S. 17 | Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 | | |
| Licensing Act 2003 S.146 | Sale of alcohol to person under 18 | | |
| Licensing Act 2003 S.147 | [3]Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18 | | |
| Children and Young Persons Act 1933 S.7 | Sale of tobacco etc to persons under 16 years | | |
| Total | | 11 | 2 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.

*Source:*

Court proceedings database held by RDS OCJR (Office for Criminal Justice Reform) - Ministry of Justice

*Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, for the offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 in Hampshire police force area for the years 2005 and 2006*[1]

| | | *£80 ticket offences* |
|---|---|---|
| *Sale of alcohol to person under 18* | | |
| 2005 | DA07 | 67 |
| 2006 | DA18 | 109 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Court proceedings database held by RDS OCJR (Office for Criminal Justice Reform) - Ministry of Justice

## Asylum

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the number of failed asylum seekers in the UK in each of the last 10 years; [170369]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of illegal immigrants living in the UK in each of the last 10 years; [170371]

(3) what estimate she has made of the proportion of immigration which was illegal in each of the last 10 years. [170372]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who remain in the country illegally. Some will go to considerable lengths to remain undetected, others leave without informing the authorities, and it is therefore impossible to quantify accurately.

## Asylum: Free School Meals

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recipients of support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claiming free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available. [172403]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* All pupils whose parents are being supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are eligible for free school meals. The Border and Immigration Agency does not have access to data on how many of those eligible are claiming school meals.

## Asylum: Young People

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications have been made by persons aged under 18 years old in each of the last four years; how many have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused; and how many such persons have been granted leave to remain. [166168]

**Mr. Byrne:** The following table shows asylum applications received in the United Kingdom by persons aged under 18 years old at time of application in each of the last four years.

Information on the number of initial decisions made on these applications would be available only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum applications by age of applicant is published annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

*Applications*[1, 2] *received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, by persons aged under 18 at time of application*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 7,865 |
| 2004 | 6,205 |

*Applications[1] [2] received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, by persons aged under 18 at time of application*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 5,165 |
| 2006[3] | 4,580 |

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] This figure may overstate because some applicants aged 18 or over may claim to be younger on leaving their country of origin.

[3] Provisional figures.

### BAE Systems

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what date her Department received the original mutual legal assistance request from the US Department of Justice on BAE Systems; what representations her Department has received from *(a)* the US Administration, *(b)* BAE Systems, *(c)* other Government Departments and *(d)* other persons about the progress of the mutual legal assistance request; and on what dates these representations were made; [163521]

(2) whether her Department has forwarded a copy of the US Department of Justice's mutual legal assistance request on BAE Systems to *(a)* the Serious Fraud Office and *(b)* another law enforcement agency. [163522]

**Meg Hillier:** I refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided on this matter. I can confirm that the Home Office received a request for assistance from the USA in respect of corruption allegations concerning BAE Systems on 23 June 2007. The request is being dealt with in accordance with the bi-lateral treaty on mutual legal assistance between the UK and the USA. It would be inappropriate to comment further.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 504W, on BAE Systems inquiry, what protocols are encompassed by the phrase considered in the usual way. [163523]

**Meg Hillier:** Requests for mutual legal assistance are received by the UK central authority within the Home Office. They are considered under the relevant UK legislation, namely the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003, in conjunction with international convention or treaty obligations that may be pertinent. The central authority receives approximately 5,000 such requests from other states per annum.

Requests are checked to ensure that they come from a competent judicial authority and that they relate to criminal investigations or proceedings being conducted by the requesting state. Checks are also conducted on the requests to ensure there are no issues relating to double jeopardy or human rights considerations such as the death penalty.

While the majority of these cases are straightforward and can be processed relatively quickly, some of the more complex cases require more consideration.

### Bail

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many street bails there were in each police force area in each year since 2003. [172855]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Bicester Accommodation Centre

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to act upon the recommendations made by the National Audit Office in its report, The cancellation of Bicester Accommodation Centre; and if she will make a statement. [163776]

**Mr. Byrne:** I welcome the NAO's report into the Bicester Accommodation Centre. The report made six recommendations about the project management approach to major projects. The report also acknowledges both the dynamic context of the project and the system and process improvements that have been made since the Accommodation Centre Project began. In particular:

the Home Office has a senior board to scrutinise all major investment decisions which is now firmly embedded as part of the Home Office operating model. This has developed alongside the wider project management capability with the Department;

the Border and Immigration Agency has a senior Approvals Committee which acts as an initial scrutiny chamber, approving all BIA projects over £1 million. Costs and benefits are challenged as part of this process;

new processes have been introduced to ensure that business cases are assessed for their strategic fit, with existing operations and future business change programmes; and

the agency now routinely identifies and monitors dependencies, risks and issues, both at individual project and programme level and across business change programmes, and flags concerns as necessary in monthly reporting to its board and Ministers.

### Border and Immigration Agency

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the Border and Immigration Agency's strategy on mitigating risk from the common travel area; and if she will make a statement. [172951]

**Mr. Byrne:** We are currently reviewing the rules and operation of the common travel area as set out in the 'Securing the UK Border' strategy (March 2007). We will consult common travel area interests as this review is taken forward. The results of the review will be announced in due course.

### Border Police Force

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget is for the Border Police Force in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [173190]

**Mr. McNulty:** Policing at the border is provided by local police forces.

The cost of police at ports is met by police authorities as part of their forces' overall policing duties, but in some cases, such as where an airport is 'designated' under the terms of the Aviation Security Act 1982, contributions are provided by airport operators. No central record is kept of these costs.

A contribution to the cost of special branch officers at ports is made by the Home Office through dedicated security post grants. A total of £212.5 million is being paid to police forces for these and other posts under this mechanism in 2007-08. For security reasons, we do not disclose the breakdown of this grant between different security functions.

The allocations for 2008-09 have not yet been made.

### Case Resolution Directorate

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the Case Resolution Directorate is dealing with; and how many of these have been brought by residents in Vauxhall constituency. [173577]

**Mr. Byrne:** In his statement on 19 July 2006, my right hon. Friend the previous Home Secretary advised that the Border and Immigration Agency would resolve its backlog of electronic and paper records relating to unresolved asylum cases in five years or less. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has given an undertaking to update the Home Affairs Committee before the end of December and this will include information on the progress of this work up to the present time.

### Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on the duration of his appointment. [173384]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and I have regular meetings with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and they discuss a variety of topics.

### Computer Misuse Act 1990

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the amendments to the Computer Misuse Act 1990 made by the Police and Justice Act 2006 to become effective; and what guidance has been published in relation to the new offences created thereby. [172390]

**Mr. McNulty:** The amendments to the Computer Misuse Act 1990 will come into effect after April 2008. We expect to publish the guidance shortly, and an exact date is being determined.

### Crime Prevention

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to involve local communities in crime reduction since 1997. [172937]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* Section 96 of the Police Act 1996 placed a statutory duty on police authorities to make arrangements for obtaining the views of people in the force area about matters concerning the policing of the area. It is for police authorities to determine locally the methods they adopt to consult with the community. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established partnerships between police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, Primary Care Trusts in England and Local Health Boards in Wales and police authorities. Under new regulations that came into effect in August 2007, partnerships are required to consult and engage with their communities to identify local crime and disorder priorities, as part of a new set of minimum standards. Partnerships are also required to identify ways in which their communities can support the delivery of those priorities. These new requirements will ensure that local communities are able to influence, and be involved in, crime reduction work at the local level.

### Crimes of Violence

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1218W, on crimes of violence, when she expects the operating model informing proposals to deal with gang membership will be completed. [173826]

**Mr. Coaker:** As stated in the previous reply, the Metropolitan police may be looking to develop this model as part of their work to tackle gangs through the five boroughs alliance. In Boston the model took some 18 months to put together, and it is considered critical that all the relevant elements are fully in place before the London model is launched, in order to ensure its effectiveness.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department recycled in terms of *(a)* volume of total waste and *(b)* percentage of total waste in each of the last five years. [172479]

**Mr. Byrne:** The following table provides departmental data from 2002-03 until 2005-06, the latest year for which figures have been published. The figures include data from some office properties on the Borders and Immigration Agency and Identity and Passport Service estates. It also includes figures from the public sector prison estate which was part of the Home Office estate until May 2007. The table shows an increase in the amount of waste arisings year on year, which reflects an increase in the total number of properties reported on.

*metric tonnes*

| | *Total waste arisings* | *Percentage of total waste recycled* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 985 | 25 |
| 2003-04 | 4,521 | 31 |
| 2004-05 | 10,879 | 35.4 |
| 2005-06 | 17,679 | 35.5 |
| 2006-07 | [1]— | [1]— |

[1] Not yet published

The Home Office continues to explore opportunities to increase further the amount of waste recycled and to identify opportunities for waste minimisation. These initiatives will be supported by more reliable data systems that will be realised through our new shared service operations, as well as by procurement initiatives.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171333]

**Mr. Byrne:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006-31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the ministerial code.

### Deportation

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claimants whose claims have failed have been deported or otherwise removed from the UK since 1 April 2003. [172683]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* Between April 2003 and September 2007, inclusive, a total of 72,550 asylum applicants have been removed from the UK; 62,020 of these had claimed asylum at some stage as principal applicants and 10,530 were dependants of asylum applicants. These figures have been rounded to the nearest five and are provisional.

These figures include enforced removals, persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons leaving voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. Removals since January 2005 also include those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

Persons departing voluntarily can leave the UK at any time without informing the authorities. The Border and Immigration Agency often learns of such people departing after they have left the UK, and hence, it is not always possible to say when they left. Since voluntary departures are included in figures on removals it is therefore not possible to say at what stage in the asylum process people are removed.

National statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the House of Commons Library.

### Deportation: Sudan

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Sudanese *(a)* migrants and *(b)* asylum seekers have been deported to Sudan in each of the last five years. [162163]

**Mr. Byrne:** The following table shows the total number of Sudanese nationals removed to Sudan between January 2004 and June 2007, broken down into asylum applicants and non-asylum cases. Information on the total number of persons (including non-asylum cases) removed from the UK in 2007 is not currently available. Information on the destination of persons removed from the UK has been recorded only since the start of 2004.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House.

*Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1], nationals of Sudan, to Sudan, January 2004 to June 2007[2, 3]*

| | | | | *Number of removals* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Period* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006[3]* | *January to June 2007[3]* |
| Total removals of Sudanese nationals to Sudan[1] | 35 | 55 | 85 | n/a |
| *Of which* | | | | |
| Asylum applicants[4] | 30 | 45 | 75 | 45 |
| Non-asylum cases | 5 | 10 | 10 | n/a |

n/a = Figures are not available.

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and since January 2005 those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[3] Provisional figures.

[4] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.

### Driving Under Influence

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to lower the permitted alcohol levels in relation to drink driving offences; and what recent research has been commissioned on this subject. [170471]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

The most recent assessment of the possible effect of a change in the legal limit was included in the 1998 consultation paper "Combating Drink Driving: Next Steps", a copy of which is in the Library of the House. The Government keeps this issue under review.

### Dungavel Immigration Reception Centre

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the last ministerial visit was to Dungavel Immigration Reception Centre; and when *(a)* she and *(b)* her ministerial team next plans to visit the centre. [173067]

**Mr. Byrne:** The last ministerial visit to Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre was made by Tony McNulty in his capacity as Minister for Immigration in June 2005.

As the current Minister of State for Borders and Immigration I intend to visit the centre in 2008.

### Emergency Calls

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many 999 calls were made in the Durham police authority area in each year since 2000. [172764]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The information requested is published in the Annual Reports of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). The latest available data refers to the 2004-05 financial year, and are given in the table.

*Emergency calls received in Durham police force area from 1999-2000 to 2004-05*[1]

| | *Number of calls* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 61,657 |
| 2000-01 | 57,548 |
| 2001-02 | 59,926 |
| 2002-03 | 67,072 |
| 2003-04 | 59,327 |
| 2004-05 | 82,346 |

[1] HMIC have advised that emergency call handling data will no longer be published in their Annual Report and that the data for 2004-05 is the last series to be published.

### Entry Clearances: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the likely change in the number of non-EU workers given leave to enter the UK as a result of the introduction of (i) the points-based system, (ii) the measures contained in Her Majesty's Gracious Speech and (iii) the introduction of further language requirements; and if she will publish such research. [166979]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Migration Impact forum (MIF) have been set up to help inform the development of immigration policy.

### Entry Clearances: Iran

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether membership of or attachment to certain Iranian higher education institutions leads to a ban on an individual's entry into the UK. [172369]

**Mr. Byrne:** Membership of, or attachment to, an Iranian higher education institution does not lead to an automatic ban on an individual's entry to the UK. All applications are considered on their individual merits.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Fereydoon Abbasi, Mohammad Tavalaei, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, Mansour Asgari or Mohamad Amin Bassam of the Imam Hossein University in Tehran have been allowed admittance to the UK in the last 10 years; and whether they would currently be allowed into the UK. [172396]

**Mr. Byrne:** It is not the policy of the Home Office to comment on individual cases.

### Essex Police Authority: Finance

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* overspend or *(b)* underspend was for Essex Police Authority in each year since 1990-91. [174085]

**Mr. McNulty:** Police authorities are legally required to set balanced budgets taking into account any use of reserves. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the Chief Officer and the Police Authority.

### Essex Police: Sick Leave

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average annual rate of sickness absence was in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex police in each year since 1997; [174064]

(2) how many and what proportion of working days were lost due to *(a)* sickness and *(b)* stress, anxiety or depression in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex police in each year since 1997. [174065]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available data are for the amount of police officer working time lost to sickness, breakdowns for the type of sickness are not collected centrally. Data are available for 2002-03 onwards at the police force level only.

Police officer sickness absence data for 2002-03 onwards are available on the Home Office website, located at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/

For 2002-03 and 2003-04, the data are given in the 2003-04 police performance monitoring report, in the form of police officer days lost per person per year.

For 2004-05 onwards, the data are given in the annual police performance assessment reports, in the form of average number of police officer hours lost per person per year.

### Essex Police: Standards

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to improve the quality of local policing in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex; and if she will make a statement. [174077]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Government are committed to ensuring every community in England and Wales has a neighbourhood policing team by April 2008. Neighbourhood policing teams, including those in Southend and Essex, are primarily concerned with engaging and working with communities in agreeing and tackling local policing priorities.

There are 16 dedicated neighbourhood policing teams in the south eastern division which covers Southend, and 145 teams in total in Essex. In 2008-09, Essex will receive £6.84 million in funding to be used primarily for police community support officers (PCSOs), but also to contribute to wider neighbourhood policing.

Furthermore, Essex police received a 'good' grading in their assessment of local priorities as part of the 2006-07 joint HMIC and Home Office police performance assessments. This reflects very positively on the force's performance in dealing with locally selected indicators set by the force and police authority—those issues that are of particular concern to local citizens.

## Extradition

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many extradition requests were made by the UK to *(a)* the USA, *(b)* each EU member state and *(c)* other countries in each of the last five years; and how many of those were (i) successful and (ii) refused. [164090]

**Meg Hillier:** For the purposes of this reply, the answer gives details of requests made by England and Wales; requests from Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office respectively. Extradition requests in England and Wales originate with the prosecuting authorities.

Since 1 January 2004, extradition between the UK and European Union has been conducted under the Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), which was given effect in the UK by Part 1 of the Extradition Act 2003. The other EU member states have been designated under Part 1 of the Extradition Act 2003 at regular intervals. A separate table sets out the statistics for the EAW.

If an extradition request was sent to a member state before that state began operating the EAW, the request will continue to be dealt with under the arrangements in place with that state when the request was made.

It should be emphasised that a person is not always returned in the same year that an extradition request has been made.

*Table 1: Extradition requests made by England and Wales 2003-07*

| | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* |
| Albania | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Australia | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | | 3 | 3 | | 1 |
| Austria | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Barbados | | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| Belgium | 8 | 6 | | 6 | | | | | | |
| Brazil | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Canada | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | |
| Cayman Islands | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Croatia | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Cyprus | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Czech Republic | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| Denmark | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| France | 3 | 3(2) | 3 | 3 | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| The Gambia | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Germany | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | | | | |
| Grenada | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| India | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | 1 |
| Israel | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Italy | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| Jamaica | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Kenya | | | | | 1 | | | (1) | | |
| Kosovo | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Luxembourg | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Mauritius | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Morocco | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Netherlands | 12 | 9 | 7 | 10 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Netherlands Antilles | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| New Zealand | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 |
| Nigeria | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Norway | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| Pakistan | | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| Portugal | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Romania | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Russia | | | | | | | 2 | (2) | 1 | |
| Serbia | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| Singapore | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | |
| Somalia | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| South Africa | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Spain | 28 | 25(1) | | 11 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Sri Lanka | | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Switzerland | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

*Table 1: Extradition requests made by England and Wales 2003-07*

| | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* | *Made* | *Returned (refused)* |
| Thailand | 1 | 2 | | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Turkey | — | | | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Ukraine | 1 | — | | | — | | — | — | — | — |
| United Arab Emirates | | — | | — | | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| United States of America | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| Venezuela | — | | | | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Total | 82 | 64(3) | 35 | 49 | 29 | 17 | 31 | 14(3) | 21 | 14 |

*Table 2: European arrest warrants issued by the UK to each member state, with number of subjects returned to the UK*

| | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *Issued* | *Returns* | *Issued* | *Returns* | *Issued* | *Returns* | *Issued* | *Returns* |
| Austria (27 July 2004) | — | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Belgium (1 January 2004) | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| Bulgaria (1 January 2007) | — | — | | — | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Cyprus (27 July 2004) | 4 | — | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | 4 | — |
| Czech Republic (1 March 2005) | — | | — | — | 5 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Denmark (1 January 2004) | — | | 1 | — | 3 | 2 | — | — |
| Estonia (1 March 2005) | | | — | | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Finland (1 January 2004) | — | | — | | — | — | — | — |
| France (27 July 2004) | 7 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 16 | 9 | 12 | 6 |
| Germany (1 March 2005) | | | 9 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 3 |
| Gibraltar (2 August 2007) | | | | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Greece (1 March 2005) | 2 | | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Hungary (27 July 2004) | | | | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Ireland (1 January 2004) | 21 | | 32 | 4 | 52 | 22 | 31 | 22 |
| Italy (28 July 2005) | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Latvia (27 July 2004) | — | | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Lithuania (27 July 2004) | | | 1 | — | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Luxembourg (27 July 2004) | | | | | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Malta (27 July 2004) | — | | | — | — | — | — | — |
| The Netherlands (27 July 2004) | 13 | 2 | 18 | 11 | 13 | 4 | 15 | 8 |
| Poland 27 July 2004) | — | | 1 | — | 4 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| Portugal (1 January 2004) | 4 | 2 | 3 | — | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Romania (1 January 2007) | — | | — | | — | | 3 | — |
| Slovakia (1 March 2005) | | | | | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| Slovenia (27 July 2004) | | | | | — | — | — | — |
| Spain (1 January 2004) | 60 | 12 | 57 | 30 | 31 | 19 | 45 | 27 |
| Sweden (1 January 2004) | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| All | 6 | | | — | 4 | — | 10 | — |

## Firearms

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of illegal firearms held in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [171991]

**Mr. Coaker:** There is no reliable method of assessing how many illegal firearms are held. Any estimate is unverifiable and likely to be misleading.

## Fraud: Finance

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Government plan to divide the allocation of funding of £28 million to tackle fraud between the National Fraud Strategic Authority and the National Fraud Reporting Centre. [173693]

**Mr. Coaker:** The comprehensive spending review (CSR) allocated over £28 million in new money for 2008 to 2011 for the implementation of the Fraud review recommendations to establish a National Fraud Strategic Authority (including a National Fraud Loss Measurement Unit), a National Fraud Reporting Centre and a National Lead Force for fraud. Specific funding earmarked for each of these remains confidential under the terms of HM Treasury's settlement letter and due to the commercially sensitive nature of the current development work.

## Fraud: Insurance

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ensure that those activities identified as high risk by the National Fraud Strategic Authority receive additional police resources to tackle the risk of insurance fraud. [173694]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government recently announced additional funding of over £28 million to implement the recommendations of the Fraud review. This includes funding to establish a national lead force for fraud which will provide a centre of expertise and resources to support fraud investigations. This is in addition to the £9.2 billion which chief officers will allocate according to national and local priorities. The police, along with other stakeholders, will be involved in developing the national fraud strategy, including the identification of high risk activities and the development of investigative capacity against fraud.

### Frontiers: Personal Records

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the inclusion of passenger name record information in the e-borders programme. [163787]

**Mr. Byrne:** Legislation will shortly be introduced to require carriers to provide Travel Document Information (TDI) together with Passenger Name Record data (PNR) (otherwise known as Other Passenger Information (OPI) to e-Borders to the extent that it is known to the carrier.

From March 2008 those carriers which provide OPI data under existing arrangements to Project Semaphore, the e-Borders pilot project, will be expected to continue to do so. The Government have funded transmission and transaction costs together with some systems change costs of participation in this pilot. Analysis of both OPI and TDI data has delivered significant operational benefits to border agencies, contributing to the arrest of individuals wanted for offences including murder, drug smuggling, rape and assault: and has led to the seizure of counterfeit travel documents, drugs and contraband. This arrangement however, was always with the understanding that the funding would cease in March 2008 and we will continue to fulfil our undertaking to industry to meet these costs until then.

The e-Borders Programme will cover 95 per cent. of passenger movements by 2010 and is committed to using all reasonable efforts to achieve a fair roll out. This will be implemented progressively, in a consultative and collaborative manner with carriers and port operators.

### Genetics: Databases

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk have their DNA stored on a database; and how many of those have been charged with committing a criminal offence. [162595]

**Meg Hillier:** The number of individuals on the national DNA database aged under 16 as at 25 October 2007, whose records were added by forces in the East of England including Suffolk, is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | 1,144 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,666 |
| Essex | 4,565 |
| Hertfordshire | 2,267 |
| Norfolk | 1,636 |
| Suffolk | 1,593 |
| Total | 12,873 |

Information on the NDNAD is recorded on the basis of the police force which took the DNA sample. The address of the person sampled is not recorded. Thus the figure for Suffolk (for example) includes people from outside Suffolk whose DNA was sampled by Suffolk police, and excludes people from Suffolk whose DNA was sampled by forces elsewhere.

The individuals shown are those who were under 16 on 25 October 2007. Individuals who were under 16 at the time a DNA sample was taken from them, but were over 16 on this date, are not included in the figures.

A certain number of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). At present, the replication rate is 13.7 per cent. i.e. the number of people whose details are loaded is 13.7 per cent. less than the number of profiles. The number of individuals shown is calculated on this basis.

The national DNA database records the DNA profile for a particular individual. It does not hold data on whether people have been charged with an offence. This information is held on the police national computer. Obtaining information on the number of under-16s whose DNA was sampled by Suffolk police, who have been charged with a criminal offence, would require cross searching of records held on the PNC against the NDNAD, which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Human Trafficking

**Dr. Palmer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government will ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. [172592]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government are committed to ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings as soon as possible as part of our ongoing anti-trafficking strategy, set out in the comprehensive UK Action Plan on tackling human trafficking. We will not ratify the Convention until it is certain that we have implemented it in full because our legal system, unlike in some other signatory countries, requires full compliance with a Convention before ratification.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) for what reasons her Department revised its estimate of the portion of the total cost of the identity card and biometric passport scheme that would be incurred in order to introduce the second biometric passport in June 2007; [164765]

(2) what assumptions formed the basis of her Department's estimate in June 2007 that biometric passports accounted for 70 per cent. of the total cost of the biometric passport and ID card scheme; [164967]

(3) what assumptions underlay her Department's estimate of the apportionment of costs between passports and identity cards in the Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report published in November 2007. [164968]

**Meg Hillier:** the latest six monthly Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report, published on 8 November 2007, sets out those elements of the cost estimates that relate specifically to passports, those specific to identity cards and those that are common to both. The cost of registering individuals for passports and ID cards is included in common costs because the same technology infrastructure and business processes will be used. In many cases, the same application will result in the issue of both a passport and an ID card.

The latest cost report may be found at:

http://www/ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

A similar analysis of cost assumptions was undertaken previously in June 2007 to derive the proportion of costs that would be required under the scheme for biometric passport purposes. The June 2007 cost estimates, and the November 2007 cost report figures, are not comparable as they cover different time periods, as required under the ID Cards Act.

The details assumptions that underpin the Business Case and Cost Report of the National Identity Scheme are commercially sensitive. Release of this detailed information could jeopardise the recently commenced procurement dialogue with potential suppliers of services under the scheme.

### Illegal Immigrants: Employment

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many employers were fined in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007 for knowingly employing an illegal immigrant; [169703]

(2) how many cases there were where an employer has been found to knowingly employ an illegal immigrant but was not fined in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [169707]

**Mr. Byrne:** Statistics showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, in 2005 and 2006, in England and Wales, are shown in the following table. All defendants found guilty of this offence were given a fine, with the exception of one defendant in 2005 who was given a conditional discharge.

Information on persons proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2004 during 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Information on whether or not the defendants were aware of the immigration status of their employees is not available and would be available only by the examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost, because this has not been a specific offence.

Difficulties in securing prosecutions under the 1996 legislation led us to bring forward the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to tackle illegal migrant working, which will provide the Border and Immigration Agency with a wider and more effective range of tools with which to tackle non-compliance. The 2006 Act introduces a system of civil penalties for employers who employ illegal migrants through less than diligent practices, alongside a tough new offence for those who knowingly employ illegal migrants, which will carry a maximum two year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine. These new measures will come into force on 29 February 2008.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1 .html.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under Section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 (Employing a person aged 16 and above subject to immigration control), 2005 to 2006[1, 2] England and Wales*

| | Number of persons | |
|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006*[3] |
| Proceeded against | 23 | 11 |
| Found guilty | 13 | 7 |

[1] Principal immigration offence.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Figures are provisional.

### Illegal Workers

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* Government Departments and *(b)* executive agencies will be liable to pay the proposed £10,000 civil penalty for employing illegal workers. [172958]

**Mr. Byrne:** People employed to work on Government departmental and executive agency premises whether employed directly by the Government Department, the executive agency or provided by an independent employer are required to satisfy requirements on identity, nationality and immigration status.

Independent employers, such as contractors, with staff working in Government Department and executive agency buildings will not enjoy this immunity.

The Border and Immigration Agency has the prime responsibility for identifying employees working illegally and taking action in such circumstances. This could include the removal of the employee from the United Kingdom and, subject to Crown immunity, the conviction of the employer under current legislation and the liability to a civil penalty and conviction under the proposed legislation which is due to be implemented on 29 February 2008.

### Immigration Controls

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department will be assigned to process *(a)* requests for a licence to sponsor foreign migrants and *(b)* migrant sponsor certificates. [172963]

**Mr. Byrne:** Further planning and analysis in advance of the implementation of the points based system will refine and finalise staff numbers.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the likely cost to local authorities of *(a)* becoming licensed to sponsor migrants and *(b)* issuing certificates of sponsorship to migrants; [172964]

(2) what estimates she has made of the likely cost to the national health service of it *(a)* becoming licensed to sponsor migrants and *(b)* issuing certificates of sponsorship to migrants. [172967]

**Mr. Byrne:** The proposed fee levels for sponsorship registration and for issuing a certificate of sponsorship to migrants will be set out in regulations before Parliament in the new year, including appropriate impact assessments to support our proposals.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies will be responsible for checking that licensed immigration sponsors are compliant with procedures when her Department begins to license organisations for the sponsorship of migrant workers. [172971]

**Mr. Byrne:** Further planning and analysis in advance of the implementation of the Points Based System will refine and finalise staff numbers.

### Immigration: Children

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to help children in immigration removal centres who are suffering from *(a)* post-traumatic stress disorder, *(b)* self-harming, *(c)* suicide attempts, *(d)* depression and *(e)* psychological trauma as a result of torture; and if she will make a statement. [172614]

**Mr. Byrne:** All those held in immigration removal centres must have available to them the same range and quality of service as the general public receives from the national health service. Where necessary, removal centre healthcare teams will refer detainees to specialists, including counsellors.

Detainees are medically screened within two hours of their arrival at a removal centre and this includes an assessment for risk of self-harm or suicidal behaviour. Where there is concern that a person presents such a risk, measures are triggered to ensure that the person concerned receives appropriate care. Part of that care will involve the need to monitor and engage with the person concerned. This applies to both adults and children.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultations her Department *(a)* has had and *(b)* is planning to have with charities and other NGOs working with children in immigration removal centres; and if she will make a statement. [172633]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency consults with various stakeholders. With regard to immigration detention, matters are able to be raised in the Detention User Group, which meets quarterly. A variety of NGOs are represented at these meetings; members of the group are also able to raise any issue outside of the meetings and have direct access to officials should they have a particular concern.

Moreover, the Border and Immigration Agency's Office of the Children's Champion (OCC) has established strong links with the Children's Commissioner for England, Sir Al Aynsley-Green. In agreement with the Children's Commissioners for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, Sir Al Aynsley Green also represents them in immigration matters.

The OCC has also attended events regarding the detention of children at which child welfare agencies from the voluntary and statutory sector were represented. It has also hosted a conference for health professionals to discuss services for children at Yarl's Wood Removal Centre, the main centre for holding families with children. Attendees included medical researchers and national campaigners for immigrant children.

### Immigration: Detention Centres

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will introduce limits on the amount of time children may be held in immigration removal centres. [172747]

**Mr. Byrne:** Although Immigration Act powers of detention are not time limited, domestic and ECHR caselaw provides that detention must last for no longer than is reasonably necessary for the purpose for which it is authorised and must not be of excessive duration.

The detention of families with children is kept to the minimum period necessary and is subject to frequent and rigorous review, including ministerial authorisation in those cases where detention reaches 28 days. Where family detention is prolonged it is often because parents seek to frustrate the removal process. To introduce a time limit on detention would reward such behaviour and that would be unacceptable.

### Immigration: Hillingdon

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the costs incurred by *(a)* Hillingdon police and *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon as a result of (i) immigration, (ii) illegal immigration and (iii) the presence of asylum seekers who have exhausted all appeals in the latest period for which figures are available. [171112]

**Mr. McNulty:** Costs to the police are not separately identified. Decisions on the distribution of resources are a matter for the Commissioner and the Metropolitan police authority.

Costs to the London borough of Hillingdon are also not separately identified.

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who had exhausted all appeals were resident in the London Borough of Hillingdon in each year since 1997, broken down by country of origin. [171117]

**Mr. Byrne:** The closest available information is the number of asylum seekers in receipt of support from BIA, broken down by Government office region and local authority. The figures do, however, cover all those on support, which is principally those whose asylum application has not yet had an initial decision or who have an outstanding right of appeal.

These and other statistics relating to asylum are published on a quarterly and annual basis and the latest publication, covering the third quarter of 2007, is available on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Further breakdowns of those in receipt of support from BIA, by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

### Immigration: Kent

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the costs incurred by Kent police as a result of immigration in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [168344]

**Mr. McNulty:** Kent police authority and force do not separately identify costs incurred as a result of immigration. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

### Immigration: Northern Ireland

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what responsibility her Department has to monitor the number of foreign nationals residing in Northern Ireland; and what measures her Department takes to combat illegal immigration in Northern Ireland. [166727]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency has responsibility for immigration control matters throughout the UK, including Northern Ireland, and has a team of enforcement officers based in the Province who work closely with the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The Agency does not disaggregate statistics for areas within the UK.

Records on migrants who are legally authorised to live and work in the UK are held but such migrants may move freely within the UK subject to their immigration conditions.

The Agency maintains records on asylum applications, including failed asylum seekers in the UK. The availability of the information on these cases is currently linked to the support that they receive.

The Agency, the PSNI and the Garda National Immigration Bureau work collaboratively and run regular intelligence-led operations to counter risks to the common travel area borders. These operations have successfully prevented foreign nationals attempting to enter Northern Ireland and the Republic illegally in both directions.

The Agency operates immigration controls at the international ports in Northern Ireland, refusing entry where appropriate, thereby preventing illegal migrants from entering by those routes.

In addition, the Agency works closely with the police service in Scotland in dealing with those who are in the UK illegally and who are identified when seeking to move between the Province and Great Britain.

In the last six months, account managers have been recruited in Northern Ireland to advise employers about their responsibilities when employing overseas nationals and the penalties and sanctions that will apply where they knowingly employ people who are here illegally.

Compliance officers will audit employers in the Province to ensure that the law is being complied with and will initiate enforcement action in appropriate cases.

### Immigration: Security Services

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any companies providing security services to Government departments have been prosecuted for employing people not entitled to be employed in this country. [175021]

**Jacqui Smith:** To date there have been no prosecutions under section eight of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 of companies for providing illegal migrant workers to work as security guards in Government Departments.

Illegal working is an issue which we take seriously which is why we introduced new measures in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality (IAN) Act 2006 to ensure employers meet their obligations. This will give us greater enforcement powers, which we will not hesitate to use.

As I told Parliament last week, the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) has prioritised enforcement action with respect to the security industry. Cases are being analysed for evidence of employers who appear to have a track record of employing people who do not have a right to work. The BIA tells me that a third of its illegal working operation is deployed on that employment sector.

As a result of this action, problems were identified with one of the sub-contractors providing services to the Home Office. This led on Friday 14 December to the identification and arrest of one member of the sub-contractor's security staff who did not have the right to work and is now subject to deportation action. The Home Office is now working with the sub-contractor to recheck individually the right to work of all their security staff supplied to the Home Office.

Furthermore, the permanent secretary has taken immediate steps to tighten the procedures for checking the identity and immigration status of those working in the Home Office, whether as a civil servant, employed by a contractor, or in any other capacity.

### International Conference on Illicit Nuclear Trafficking

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution Ministers or officials from her Department made to the International Conference on Illicit Nuclear Trafficking: Collective Experience and the Way Forward, held in Edinburgh between 19 and 22 November. [172978]

**Mr. McNulty:** The conference was addressed by William Nye, Director for Law, Security and International in the Office for Security and Counter-terrorism, who provided a keynote speech on 19 November titled "The UK approach to combating nuclear terrorism".

### Muhammad Qazilbash Mumtaz

**Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the Border and Immigration Agency to reply to the letter of 23 October from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on Muhammad Qazilbash Mumtaz (acknowledgement reference B31608/7). [173583]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 December 2007.

### Neneh Famata Jalloh

**Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the Border and Immigration Agency to reply to the letter of 29 October from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood sent on behalf of Neneh Famata Jalloh (Home Office reference J112636, acknowledgement reference B30489/7). [173618]

**Mr. Byrne:** I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 December 2007.

### Offenders

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons working for her Department have unspent criminal convictions. [163348]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information obtained on recruitment or reported by employees is retained on personnel files or by HR management units as appropriate and is not collated. It could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Overseas Students: Vetting

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the new immigration rules which will mean that students studying proliferation sensitive courses require ATAS clearance to enter the country are planned to come into force. [172368]

**Mr. Byrne:** The relevant changes to the immigration rules took effect on 30 November 2007.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* the UK Passport Service, *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service, *(c)* Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, *(d)* the immigration and nationality directive and *(e)* the National Policing Improvement Agency recycled in terms of (i) volume of total waste and (ii) percentage of total waste in each of the last five years. [172420]

**Mr. Byrne:** The recycling data for the agencies and non-departmental public bodies requested is unavailable because comprehensive waste data collection and reporting systems are not currently in place in all of these organisations. The following table provides departmental data from 2002-03 until 2005-06, the latest year for which figures have been published. The figures include data from some office properties on the Borders and Immigration Agency and Identity and Passport Service estates. It also includes figures from the public sector prison estate which was part of the Home Office estate until May this year. The table shows an increase in the amount of waste arisings year on year, which reflects an increase in the total number of properties reported on.

| | *Total waste arisings (metric tonnes)* | *Percentage of total waste recycled* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 985 | 25 |
| 2003-04 | 4,521 | 31 |
| 2004-05 | 10,879 | 35.4 |
| 2005-06 | 17,679 | 35.5 |
| 2006-07 | [1]— | [1]— |

[1] Not yet published

The Home Office continues to explore opportunities to increase further the amount of waste recycled and to identify opportunities for waste minimisation. These initiatives will be supported by more reliable data systems that will be realised through our new shared service operations, as well as by procurement initiatives.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the policy is of *(a)* the Identity and Passport Service, *(b)* Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, *(c)* the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and *(d)* the National Policing Improvement Agency on recycling. [172421]

**Mr. Byrne:** None of the organisations cited has its own dedicated recycling policy. Rather they operate under the departmental waste policies which stem from our commitment to the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate, published in June 2006 which require central Government Departments and their agencies to increase the amount of waste recycled to 40 per cent. of their waste arisings by 2010 and increase their recycling figures to 75 per cent. of their waste arisings by 2020.

### Police

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent police officers there were per recorded incident of *(a)* rape, *(b)* homicide and *(c)* violence against the person in each London borough in each year since 1997. [171789]

**Mr. McNulty:** Figures are available centrally from 2002-03, and appear in the following tables. The police officer totals used in the ratios relate to all officers in post in each borough, and not just to those involved with investigating rapes, homicides and violence against the person which may involve officers from other boroughs and central services.

*Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers per recorded offences of rape, homicide and violence against the person, by London borough 2003-07*

*Table A: Total number of police officers (FTE) in post[1] per 100 recorded rape offences in each London borough*

| | *2002-03[2]* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Barking and Dagenham** | 515 | 685 | 566 | 645 | 628 |
| **Barnet** | 870 | 644 | 668 | 792 | 823 |
| **Bexley** | 732 | 1,089 | 797 | 1,003 | 1,059 |
| **Brent** | 712 | 530 | 686 | 687 | 722 |
| **Bromley** | 595 | 976 | 858 | 897 | 1,072 |

*Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers per recorded offences of rape, homicide and violence against the person, by London borough 2003-07*

*Table A: Total number of police officers (FTE) in post[1] per 100 recorded rape offences in each London borough*

| | 2002-03[2] | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Camden | 1,013 | 1,527 | 1,251 | 1,274 | 1,160 |
| City of Westminster | 1,195 | 1,375 | 1,431 | 1,541 | 1,192 |
| Croydon | 630 | 915 | 769 | 614 | 705 |
| Ealing | 610 | 726 | 891 | 667 | 1,216 |
| Enfield | 538 | 648 | 777 | 777 | 881 |
| Greenwich | 507 | 503 | 611 | 513 | 591 |
| Hackney | 666 | 649 | 597 | 564 | 682 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 693 | 538 | 835 | 988 | 907 |
| Haringey | 560 | 750 | 690 | 651 | 906 |
| Harrow | 1,041 | 739 | 684 | 937 | 786 |
| Havering | 1,063 | 672 | 1,278 | 776 | 1,008 |
| Hillingdon | 804 | 834 | 957 | 1,125 | 1,415 |
| Hounslow | 668 | 726 | 680 | 705 | 665 |
| Islington | 461 | 701 | 735 | 901 | 762 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,229 | 1,368 | 1,560 | 1,367 | 1,160 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 543 | 611 | 806 | 730 | 1,050 |
| Lambeth | 583 | 747 | 674 | 715 | 751 |
| Lewisham | 381 | 474 | 673 | 764 | 584 |
| Merton | 690 | 869 | 782 | 906 | 898 |
| Newham | 455 | 550 | 518 | 697 | 790 |
| Redbridge | 570 | 815 | 637 | 1,024 | 898 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 1,290 | 2,039 | 1,304 | 1,470 | 1,263 |
| Southwark | 595 | 533 | 707 | 693 | 717 |
| Sutton | 887 | 1,038 | 939 | 788 | 927 |
| Tower Hamlets | 653 | 792 | 895 | 912 | 734 |
| Waltham Forest | 558 | 613 | 992 | 661 | 734 |
| Wandsworth | 511 | 638 | 910 | 995 | 739 |

*Table B: Total number of police officers (FTE) in post[1] per 100 recorded homicide offences in each London borough*

| | 2002-03[2] | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 12,007 | 9,594 | 5,239 | 10,641 | 4,745 |
| Barnet | 10,445 | [3]— | 11,220 | 13,862 | 11,022 |
| Bexley | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 12,041 | [3]— |
| Brent | 10,322 | 6,833 | 3,774 | 6,666 | 16,795 |
| Bromley | 10,421 | [3]— | 16,306 | [3]— | 12,326 |
| Camden | 4,494 | [3]— | 10,630 | 3,880 | 11,605 |
| City of Westminster | 17,394 | 27,277 | 32,342 | 19,652 | 39,031 |
| Croydon | 10,395 | 5,491 | 6,920 | 6,942 | 22,805 |
| Ealing | 7,248 | 11,617 | 8,577 | 8,418 | 7,569 |
| Enfield | 8,159 | 8,959 | 4,789 | 9,327 | [3]— |
| Greenwich | 15,096 | 4,858 | 7,565 | 12,307 | 21,062 |
| Hackney | 11,217 | 3,830 | 8,761 | 10,953 | 6,763 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 8,542 | 12,911 | 13,152 | [3]— | 14,058 |
| Haringey | 3,725 | 5,687 | 6,832 | 14,331 | 13,772 |
| Harrow | [3]— | 11,088 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Havering | [3]— | 5,715 | [3]— | [3]— | 7,657 |
| Hillingdon | 9,166 | 8,065 | [3]— | 16,871 | 7,075 |
| Hounslow | [3]— | 6,742 | 8,494 | 10,011 | 12,968 |
| Islington | 20,758 | 13,602 | 9,762 | [3]— | 11,297 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 17,610 | [3]— | 6,240 | 14,352 | [3]— |
| Kingston upon Thames | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Lambeth | 6,450 | 7,840 | 9,845 | 14,196 | 6,356 |
| Lewisham | 11,421 | 6,949 | 12,919 | 7,213 | 15,465 |
| Merton | 10,125 | [3]— | [3]— | 11,777 | 7,543 |
| Newham | 4,945 | 5,210 | 7,819 | 6,005 | 5,416 |
| Redbridge | 7,864 | 5,499 | 11,467 | 7,853 | [3]— |
| Richmond upon Thames | [3]— | 9,515 | 9,560 | [3]— | [3]— |
| Southwark | 7,622 | 6,686 | 9,905 | 12,475 | 8,461 |
| Sutton | 8,872 | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Tower Hamlets | 6,238 | 6,910 | 9,513 | [3]— | 25,212 |
| Waltham Forest | 6,941 | 5,928 | 10,917 | 7,938 | 13,582 |
| Wandsworth | 9,281 | [3]— | 14,556 | 12,136 | 6,653 |

*Table C: Total number of police officers (FTE) in post[1] per 100 recorded violence against the person offences in each London borough*

| | 2002-03[2] | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 8.2 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.3 |
| Barnet | 10.0 | 9.3 | 7.8 | 8.7 | 10.0 |
| Bexley | 8.9 | 8.3 | 9.3 | 8.3 | 9.9 |
| Brent | 9.8 | 9.3 | 7.4 | 8.1 | 10.8 |
| Bromley | 8.8 | 9.2 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 8.7 |
| Camden | 12.4 | 12.4 | 11.1 | 11.6 | 12.3 |
| City of Westminster | 15.8 | 17.1 | 15.5 | 16.6 | 18.6 |
| Croydon | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 8.9 | 10.1 |
| Ealing | 9.1 | 9.7 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.9 |
| Enfield | 8.8 | 10.5 | 11.1 | 10.6 | 10.9 |
| Greenwich | 8.8 | 8.5 | 7.7 | 8.0 | 8.4 |
| Hackney | 9.9 | 10.7 | 10.8 | 10.3 | 10.4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 11.9 | 12.0 | 11.4 | 11.0 | 11.1 |
| Haringey | 11.6 | 12.4 | 10.8 | 10.4 | 12.2 |
| Harrow | 10.7 | 11.6 | 11.3 | 11.4 | 12.3 |
| Havering | 8.7 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.1 | 10.5 |
| Hillingdon | 9.2 | 9.3 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 8.4 |
| Hounslow | 6.6 | 6.8 | 7.5 | 7.8 | 9.4 |
| Islington | 9.8 | 10.3 | 9.0 | 9.8 | 10.8 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 15.2 | 17.0 | 17.2 | 17.3 | 15.8 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 9.5 | 8.0 | 8.5 | 9.5 | 9.8 |
| Lambeth | 10.6 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 11.1 | 11.4 |
| Lewisham | 10.0 | 9.4 | 8.2 | 7.7 | 7.7 |
| Merton | 8.8 | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 11.2 |
| Newham | 8.6 | 9.5 | 9.8 | 9.3 | 10.0 |
| Redbridge | 8.6 | 9.4 | 9.8 | 11.9 | 10.8 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 11.1 | 11.4 | 11.2 | 12.5 | 14.3 |
| Southwark | 10.2 | 9.8 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 10.0 |
| Sutton | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.2 | 9.7 | 10.2 |
| Tower Hamlets | 9.1 | 9.8 | 9.6 | 10.4 | 9.8 |
| Waltham Forest | 9.0 | 8.9 | 8.7 | 8.1 | 9.0 |
| Wandsworth | 10.4 | 11.5 | 9.9 | 9.9 | 10.6 |

[1] All figures for police officer numbers are full-time equivalents (FTE). The figures used in these ratios relate to total officers in post, regardless of function, and include staff on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures that use recorded crime data before and after that date are not directly comparable, although homicide to have been relatively unaffected.

[3] In accordance with guidance from the Office for National Statistics, homicide values less than 3 have been suppressed in order to protect confidentiality. Where there were no homicides in the period, a ratio cannot be calculated.

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to introduce secondary legislation to authorise the police and security services to access the travel details of individuals by road, train and air. [172481]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* Provisions in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 (IAN Act 2006) and Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced new police powers to capture passenger, crew and service information on international and domestic air and sea journeys. The IAN Act 2006 also introduced a power to allow the police, Border and Immigration Agency and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to disclose passenger, crew, service and other travel related data, held by them, to the security and intelligence agencies, where those data are likely to be of use for their statutory purposes. The intention is that these powers will be brought into force by order in 2008. An order made under the Channel Tunnel Act 1987 will also be made to extend the police data acquisition and sharing powers to cover international train journeys. There is no secondary legislation planned that relates to the capture of data about individuals travelling by road.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers there were per head of population in *(a)* each police force and *(b)* total in each year since 1997; [172857]

(2) how many members of the special constabulary there were in each police force area, in each year since 1997; [172859]

(3) how many civilian staff were employed by each police force in each year since 1997; and how many of those civilians were employed to perform tasks previously performed by uniformed officers. [172862]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series 'Police Service Strength, England and Wales.' The bulletins are available in the Library of the House, and can be downloaded from the publications link within the Research Development and Statistics directorate website located at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html

Information for the number of civilian staff employed to perform tasks previously performed by uniformed officers is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the police authority precept was for each authority in England and Wales in each financial year since 1997. [172866]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is provided in the following table.

*Precept (Band D) increases by force 1997-98 to 2007-08*

| *Force* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 52.04 | 54.86 | 60.62 | 67.59 | 72.66 | 83.40 | 111.64 | 125.09 | 131.34 | 137.84 | 147.17 |
| Bedfordshire | 52.51 | 55.84 | 61.36 | 66.98 | 70.26 | 78.69 | 93.44 | 107.17 | 111.98 | 117.55 | 123.43 |
| Cambridgeshire | 51.03 | 48.24 | 52.11 | 62.46 | 68.04 | 94.59 | 113.31 | 129.33 | 135.54 | 142.29 | 149.40 |
| Cheshire | 51.16 | 53.86 | 56.28 | 61.06 | 64.66 | 73.54 | 88.10 | 97.71 | 102.60 | 108.49 | 116.03 |
| Cleveland | 54.87 | 48.43 | 62.55 | 65.58 | 69.51 | 96.13 | 120.22 | 136.84 | 143.68 | 150.72 | 158.10 |
| Cumbria | 58.20 | 72.35 | 78.27 | 84.23 | 90.60 | 100.48 | 130.71 | 150.28 | 155.43 | 163.08 | 171.09 |
| Derbyshire | 51.31 | 57.30 | 65.85 | 71.12 | 75.38 | 91.96 | 111.77 | 122.88 | 129.02 | 135.15 | 141.91 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 49.79 | 48.30 | 53.52 | 58.87 | 61.81 | 73.80 | 103.27 | 113.39 | 119.62 | 125.53 | 131.73 |
| Dorset | 63.59 | 70.61 | 77.13 | 84.42 | 92.25 | 103.50 | 123.39 | 135.36 | 142.11 | 149.13 | 156.51 |
| Durham | 52.20 | 48.60 | 50.40 | 52.65 | 56.43 | 64.44 | 79.56 | 91.53 | 96.03 | 100.80 | 135.72 |
| Essex | 54.09 | 62.28 | 65.07 | 67.95 | 71.01 | 77.67 | 92.97 | 99.27 | 104.76 | 110.97 | 116.46 |
| Gloucestershire | 51.17 | 57.74 | 68.90 | 77.98 | 82.05 | 94.01 | 142.59 | 156.71 | 162.90 | 170.96 | 179.49 |
| Hampshire | 51.75 | 50.13 | 53.91 | 55.08 | 59.04 | 75.15 | 97.29 | 108.36 | 113.76 | 119.43 | 125.37 |
| Hertfordshire | 51.51 | 58.83 | 63.54 | 67.99 | 72.39 | 81.01 | 98.28 | 112.53 | 118.09 | 123.98 | 130.17 |
| Humberside | 52.47 | 52.47 | 54.81 | 60.30 | 85.77 | 95.40 | 113.04 | 129.96 | 135.72 | 142.47 | 149.58 |
| Kent | 51.59 | 48.41 | 52.48 | 55.73 | 60.26 | 73.64 | 94.95 | 105.66 | 110.88 | 116.37 | 122.18 |
| Lancashire | 53.25 | 53.41 | 57.69 | 62.60 | 67.89 | 73.86 | 87.57 | 100.70 | 107.72 | 113.09 | 125.95 |
| Leicestershire | 52.26 | 61.21 | 63.79 | 67.80 | 75.52 | 95.21 | 104.77 | 120.11 | 126.04 | 132.33 | 138.96 |
| Lincolnshire | 69.03 | 78.93 | 81.99 | 86.49 | 90.36 | 94.86 | 104.40 | 112.23 | 119.43 | 125.37 | 131.58 |
| Norfolk | 50.58 | 53.64 | 64.35 | 72.09 | 83.61 | 100.35 | 121.95 | 138.69 | 145.53 | 154.17 | 164.88 |
| Northamptonshire | 70.56 | 69.29 | 76.08 | 79.65 | 83.00 | 105.25 | 130.09 | 149.43 | 154.41 | 162.11 | 170.21 |
| North Yorkshire | 49.72 | 48.46 | 52.20 | 57.04 | 62.59 | 88.59 | 156.00 | 171.50 | 176.00 | 180.00 | 185.40 |
| Nottinghamshire | 49.78 | 54.32 | 61.55 | 65.17 | 70.17 | 85.17 | 109.30 | 120.12 | 126.01 | 132.24 | 138.78 |
| Staffordshire | 54.74 | 72.42 | 78.86 | 83.43 | 94.37 | 100.93 | 126.50 | 138.44 | 145.28 | 152.53 | 160.15 |
| Suffolk | 51.39 | 52.38 | 56.16 | 61.11 | 67.14 | 82.08 | 109.35 | 119.70 | 125.01 | 130.86 | 137.34 |
| Surrey | 44.64 | 66.06 | 75.24 | 79.41 | 83.08 | 96.44 | 135.09 | 147.06 | 154.26 | 163.26 | 171.27 |
| Sussex | 51.66 | 50.98 | 53.19 | 55.53 | 59.13 | 69.84 | 97.74 | 105.12 | 110.25 | 115.74 | 122.67 |
| Thames Valley | 52.79 | 50.76 | 56.53 | 60.34 | 64.49 | 73.49 | 106.24 | 120.51 | 126.28 | 132.58 | 139.19 |
| Warwickshire | 52.24 | 62.09 | 71.18 | 77.57 | 85.17 | 101.78 | 117.30 | 126.55 | 132.52 | 138.95 | 145.90 |

*Precept (Band D) increases by force 1997-98 to 2007-08*

£

| *Force* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Mercia | 50.87 | 53.64 | 59.00 | 74.06 | 78.50 | 104.50 | 119.80 | 137.69 | 143.17 | 150.24 | 157.66 |
| Wiltshire | 55.22 | 62.77 | 6898 | 75.84 | 83.26 | 91.54 | 109.68 | 120.63 | 126.63 | 132.84 | 139.35 |
| *Total Shires* | 52.79 | 56.00 | 61.24 | 66.41 | 71.85 | 84.78 | 108.71 | 121.12 | 126.97 | 133.31 | 140.94 |
| Greater Manchester | 54.10 | 56.28 | 60.22 | 62.72 | 64.66 | 68.86 | 91.65 | 98.52 | 105.41 | 110.67 | 116.19 |
| Merseyside | 66.87 | 71.78 | 77.44 | 81.31 | 85.37 | 94.76 | 101.54 | 110.17 | 115.68 | 121.46 | 127.53 |
| Northumbria | 52.73 | 47.67 | 49.82 | 52.06 | 55.65 | 58.15 | 63.80 | 66.93 | 70.03 | 71.78 | 74.62 |
| South Yorkshire | 53.29 | 54.28 | 56.72 | 59.26 | 62.79 | 74.09 | 94.30 | 102.79 | 107.88 | 113.27 | 118.92 |
| West Midlands | 53.20 | 48.99 | 51.19 | 54.77 | 57.21 | 61.88 | 71.16 | 80.08 | 83.68 | 87.55 | 91.47 |
| West Yorkshire | 53.17 | 52.41 | 54.76 | 58.73 | 60.82 | 75.92 | 88.81 | 102.06 | 107.05 | 112.40 | 118.02 |
| *Total METS* | 55.05 | 54.52 | 57.59 | 60.76 | 63.50 | 71.06 | 84.50 | 92.98 | 97.94 | 102.56 | 107.48 |
| *Total England (exc. London)* | 53.34 | 55.65 | 60.37 | 65.09 | 69.90 | 81.57 | 103.07 | 114.60 | 120.25 | 126.20 | 133.22 |
| Metropolitan | 63.27 | 76.48 | 82.51 | 90.95 | 118.85 | 130.59 | 159.13 | 184.08 | 196.28 | 210.82 | 223.60 |
| *Total England (inc. London)* | 55.09 | 59.32 | 64.26 | 69.30 | 77.80 | 89.52 | 112.16 | 125.91 | 132.62 | 139.97 | 147.901 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 48.42 | 59.58 | 72.99 | 85.41 | 90.90 | 98.10 | 124.11 | 142.65 | 143.10 | 150.21 | 157.68 |
| Gwent | 49.10 | 54.36 | 59.74 | 74.97 | 84.03 | 95.17 | 119.11 | 139.13 | 145.07 | 152.32 | 159.94 |
| North Wales | 48.52 | 58.54 | 66.33 | 78.49 | 82.72 | 96.53 | 126.94 | 151.57 | 158.94 | 166.89 | 178.16 |
| South Wales | 49.22 | 56.25 | 65.36 | 80.42 | 85.57 | 89.85 | 103.51 | 115.71 | 120.40 | 126.42 | 132.74 |
| *Total Wales* | 48.89 | 57.03 | 65.91 | 79.84 | 85.54 | 93.87 | 115.60 | 133.34 | 138.22 | 145.07 | 153.03 |
| *Total England and Wales* | 54.74 | 59.19 | 64.36 | 69.89 | 78.24 | 89.77 | 112.36 | 126.33 | 132.95 | 140.28 | 148.21 |

*Sources:*
English Police Authorities – DCLG
Welsh Police Authorities - WAG

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* discussions she has had with and *(b)* representations she has received from the Essex police authority on the report on sustainable policing produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities since July 2007; and if she will make a statement. [174043]

**Mr. McNulty:** None. The case made in sustainable policing was taken into account in developing the provisional police grant settlement tabled by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 6 December.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information is collected by the police on the number of road accidents *(a)* caused by and *(b)* involving non-UK citizens; and if she will make a statement. [175255]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of reported personal injury road accidents involving or caused by non-UK citizens is not collected centrally. However, the Department for Transport does collect information on whether vehicles involved in a personal injury road accident are foreign registered. This information is published in table 53 in 'Road casualties Great Britain: the annual report 2006'. Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/2[illegible]5672/WebTables4153.xls

## Police Authorities

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to change the *(a)* membership and *(b)* responsibilities of police authorities. [172853]

**Mr. McNulty:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary intends to introduce regulations in respect of the Police and Justice Act 2006 to give police authorities a greater role in the selection of their members, and reduce her own role. These regulations will also introduce measures to monitor appointments to ensure they are fair and transparent. The Mayor of London will also have an increased role under the regulations.

We also intend to introduce regulations to make police authority planning processes more efficient and streamlined and to ensure that police authorities *(a)* monitor the compliance of their forces with the Human Rights Act 1998 and with the authority's policing plan, *(b)* put in place arrangements that secure collaboration between police forces where this would be in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness and *(c)* promote diversity and equality within forces and authorities.

### Police Cells

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what pilots have been undertaken on the use by police of short-term holding facilities as an alternative to detention in police cells; and if she will make a statement. [172873]

**Mr. McNulty:** No pilots have been carried out. This is being considered as part of the consultation process on the Review of PACE.

### Police National Computer

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much is being spent on ensuring that the Police National Computer is fully updated. [169844]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not held centrally. However, the Police National Computer (PNC) system is continuously updated by the police.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Police National Computer will be fully updated with court records. [170023]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Police National Computer (PNC) is continuously updated with court records information.

### Police: Accidents

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured following police vehicle pursuits in each year since 1997, broken down by police force area. [170423]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available data are for 2002-03 onwards and relate to road traffic collisions on public roads during immediate/emergency responses and police pursuit, and are given in the following tables.

In responding effectively to emergency situations the police must have due regard to the safety of other road users. The IPCC Report on their two-year review of road traffic incidents involving police vehicles which resulted in a fatality or serious injury was recently published ("Police Road Traffic Incidents: A Study of Cases Involving Serious and Fatal Injuries" http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/rti_report_11_9_07.pdf).

There are 29 recommendations for police forces in the report about how practice could and should be changed.

*Number[1] and type[2] of injuries resulting from those road traffic accidents occurring during immediate/emergency response[3] and pelice pursuit[4], from 2002-03 to 2006-07*

| | 2002-03 | | | 2003-04 | | | 2004-05 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* | *Fatal injury* | *Serious injury* | *Other injury* |
| Avon and Somerset | 2 | 7 | 53 | 2 | 6 | 74 | 0 | 9 | 52 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 2 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 56 | 1 | 1 | 27 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 2 | 27 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 7 | 29 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 0 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 35 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 1 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 64 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Dorset | 0 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 9 | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— |
| Durham | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 2 | 1 | 36 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Essex | 0 | 2 | 32 | 2 | 3 | 36 | 1 | 3 | 35 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Greater Manchester | 4 | 5 | 74 | 6 | 9 | 56 | 4 | 2 | 106 |
| Gwent | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Hampshire | 1 | 7 | 29 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Hertfordshire | 0 | 6 | 59 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 61 |
| Humberside | 0 | 3 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Kent | 0 | 2 | 48 | 0 | 7 | 73 | 0 | 2 | 23 |
| Lancashire | 0 | 1 | 31 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| Leicestershire | 1 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 2 | 16 | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— |
| Lincolnshire | 0 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| London, City of | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Merseyside | 3 | 3 | 62 | 3 | 6 | 75 | 0 | 3 | 58 |
| Metropolitan police | 5 | 14 | [5]— | 4 | 21 | 600 | 4 | 23 | 724 |
| Norfolk | 1 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 0 | 6 | 26 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 6 | 19 | 0 | 4 | 22 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 3 | 62 | 0 | 3 | 70 | 3 | 13 | 94 |

*Number[1] and type[2] of injuries resulting from those road traffic accidents occurring during immediate/emergency response[3] and police pursuit[4], from 2002-03 to 2006-07*

| | 2002-03 | | | 2003-04 | | | 2004-05 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fatal injury | Serious injury | Other injury | Fatal injury | Serious injury | Other injury | Fatal injury | Serious injury | Other injury |
| North Wales | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| North Yorkshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 57 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| South Wales | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 3 | 24 | 0 | 12 | 67 | 2 | 10 | 83 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Surrey | 0 | 2 | 38 | 1 | 2 | 33 | 0 | 1 | 31 |
| Sussex | 0 | 7 | 45 | 0 | 6 | 27 | 2 | 0 | 31 |
| Thames Valley | 3 | 13 | 115 | 2 | 11 | 122 | 0 | 6 | 71 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 4 | 30 | 0 | 2 | 22 | 0 | 4 | 32 |
| West Midlands | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 2 | 2 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| West Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 11 |

| | 2005-06 | | | 2006-07 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fatal injury | Serious injury | Other injury | Fatal injury | Serious injury | Other injury |
| Avon and Somerset | 2 | 3 | 68 | 0 | 8 | 42 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 5 | 30 | 0 | 2 | 18 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| Cumbria | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| Dorset | 1 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| Durham | 0 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 21 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Essex | 1 | 4 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 6 | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— |
| Greater Manchester | 1 | 3 | 91 | 6 | 6 | 64 |
| Gwent | 0 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Hampshire | 1 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| Hertfordshire | 2 | 3 | 45 | 0 | 11 | 48 |
| Humberside | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| Kent | 1 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Lancashire | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 2 | 32 |
| Leicestershire | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| Lincolnshire | 0 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| London, City of | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Merseyside | 3 | 3 | 136 | 1 | 4 | 88 |
| Metropolitan police | 4 | 33 | 584 | 4 | 26 | 496 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 7 | 13 |
| Northumbria | 1 | 5 | 84 | 1 | 5 | 64 |
| North Wales | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 11 | 16 |
| Nottinghamshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— |
| South Wales | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 33 | 35 |
| Staffordshire | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Suffolk | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Surrey | 0 | 1 | 31 | 0 | 2 | 24 |
| Sussex | 5 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 43 |
| Thames Valley | 0 | 2 | 127 | 3 | 6 | 56 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 2 | 26 | 0 | 1 | 23 |
| West Midlands | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| West Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 52 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |

[1] Headcount figures. Includes both police personnel and members of the public.

[2] Fatal and serious injuries are as defined in the Department of Transport Stats 20 instructions for the completion of road accident reports.

[3] An immediate/emergency response is when a police vehicle is en route to a reported incident.

[4] A police pursuit is where a police vehicle driver is pursuing a fleeing vehicle with the intention of causing it to stop.

[5] Data are not available.

## Police: False Alarms

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the average cost per incident incurred by the police in attending false call-outs triggered by security alarms. [173621]

**Mr. McNulty:** No estimates have been made. The information for all police forces in England and Wales is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Police: Finance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was in each of the last 10 years to police in each police force area on *(a)* detecting illegal immigrants, *(b)* removing or deporting people from the UK, *(c)* translation and interpretation for immigration-related work and *(d)* other immigration-related work. [167715]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information for all police forces in England and Wales is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* overspend and *(b)* underspend was for each police authority in England and Wales in each year since 1996-97. [172867]

**Mr. McNulty:** Police authorities are legally required to set balanced budgets taking into account any use of reserves. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

## Police: Hampshire

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police constables, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* special constables were allocated to each local policing area in Hampshire in each year since 2005. [172312]

**Mr. McNulty:** Figures collected centrally relate to police officers (rather than police constables), police community support officers and special constables, and are shown in the following tables:

*Number of police officers, police community support officers and special constables in post in Hampshire Basic Command Units (BCUs), 2005-07*

*Table A: Police Officers (Full-Time Equivalent)*

| | *31 March 2005* | *31 March 2006* | *31 March 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Basingstoke and Dean[1] | 206 | 210 | n/a |
| Central Hampshire (before April 2006)[1] | 216 | 211 | n/a |
| Central Hampshire (after April 2006)[1] | n/a | n/a | 623 |
| Havant[1] | 223 | 225 | n/a |
| Isle of Wight | 194 | 203 | 209 |
| New Forest[1] | 217 | 221 | n/a |
| North East Hampshire[1] | 217 | 221 | n/a |
| North and East Hampshire (after April 2006)[1] | n/a | n/a | 548 |
| Portsmouth | 404 | 410 | 421 |
| Solent East[1] | 275 | 278 | n/a |
| Southampton | 483 | 476 | 513 |
| West Hants (before April 2006)[1] | 271 | 269 | n/a |
| West Hants (after April 2006)[1] | n/a | n/a | 500 |

*Table B: Police Community Support Officers (Full-Time Equivalent)*

| | *30 June 2005*[2] | *30 June 2006*[2] | *31 March 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Basingstoke and Dean[1] | 2 | n/a | n/a |
| Central Hampshire (before April 2006)[1] | 4 | n/a | n/a |
| Central Hampshire (after April 2006)[1] | n/a | 4 | 62 |
| Havant[1] | 4 | n/a | n/a |
| Isle of Wight | 0 | 4 | 29 |
| New Forest[1] | 0 | n/a | n/a |
| North East Hampshire[1] | 4 | n/a | n/a |
| North and East Hampshire (after April 2006)[1] | n/a | 9 | 48 |
| Portsmouth | 6 | 37 | 48 |
| Solent East[1] | 0 | n/a | n/a |
| Southampton | 6 | 5 | 58 |
| West Hants (before April 2006)[1] | 0 | n/a | n/a |
| West Hants (after April 2006)[1] | n/a | 0 | 51 |

*Table C: Special Constables (Head Count)*

| | *31 March 2005* | *31 March 2006* | *31 March 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Basingstoke and Dean[1] | 39 | 44 | n/a |
| Central Hampshire (before April 2006)[1] | 50 | 48 | n/a |
| Central Hampshire (after April 2006)[1] | n/a | n/a | 120 |
| Havant[1] | 26 | 29 | n/a |
| Isle of Wight | 24 | 29 | 27 |
| New Forest[1] | 27 | 29 | n/a |
| North East Hampshire[1] | 21 | 24 | n/a |
| North and East Hampshire (after April 2006)[1] | n/a | n/a | 120 |
| Portsmouth | 34 | 35 | 44 |
| Solent East[1] | 58 | 62 | n/a |
| Southampton | 45 | 45 | 48 |
| West Hants (before April 2006)[1] | 50 | 42 | n/a |
| West Hants (after April 2006)[1] | n/a | n/a | 80 |

[1] Basic Command Unit affected by boundary change in April 2006.

[2] Figures taken from ad hoc collections for 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2006, which may not be consistent with the main National Statistics collections (in terms of definitions as well as the different dates).

*Note:*

Figures for Basic Command Units do not total to police force personnel totals, because Central Services (e.g. HQ staffing) are not included.

## Police: Manpower

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether numbers of officers employed by non-Home Office police constabularies are counted when calculating total police manpower levels; and how many such officers are employed in each force. [173125]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Home Office does not routinely collect data on non-Home Office police forces. However, information on officer, police staff and police community support officer numbers has been provided by the British Transport police on a voluntary basis since 2002-03 in view of that force's high public profile. Although the data is published in the Home Office

Statistical Bulletin, "Police Service Strength", the number of BTP officers is not included in the overall police officer numbers used by the Home Office. At the end of March 2007 BTP had 2,555 police officers.

### Police: Recruitment

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police officers recruited in each year since 1997 were graduates. [172856]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics series.

### Police: Video Conferencing

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions a custody officer in a designated police station has used video conferencing or similar facilities to carry out oversight functions of a person detained at a non-designated police station under section 45A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; and if she will make a statement. [172854]

**Mr. McNulty:** The provisions of section 45A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 have not been commenced. This is being considered as part of the consultation process on the Review of PACE.

### Prisoners: Deportation

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in each year from 2002 to 2006; and how many have been deported or removed in 2007. [163346]

**Mr. Byrne:** On 14 June the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent provisional information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. In this letter the chief executive reported that 2,784 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in the financial year 2006-07.

Statistics on the deportation of foreign nationals were last published in 2002. Copies of this are available in the Library of the House.

Published information on persons removed as a result of deportation action has not been available from 2003 onwards due to data quality issues. The Border and Immigration Agency is putting in place new systems to improve its data collection systems for the future in this area.

### Project Iris

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to extend Project Iris beyond the existing terminals at which it is installed; and if she will make a statement. [172953]

**Mr. Byrne:** The IRIS project was introduced to de-risk elements of the e-Borders Programme. Through this project we have been able to demonstrate that biometric technology can be used to securely permit the entry of low risk passengers to the UK via an automated barrier. IRIS is available at Heathrow, Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester and there are currently no plans to roll out IRIS any further.

As a result of lessons learnt from the IRIS project, wider automated clearance systems are now under development.

### Terrorism

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to counter threats of nuclear terrorism against potential targets in the UK. [172976]

**Mr. McNulty:** Countering the threat posed by nuclear terrorism is part of the Government's wider counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST). This involves a large number of wide ranging actions by the Security Services, the Police and Government; the exact details of which cannot be given for reasons of national security.

However, three examples of the type of steps taken by Government to counter this specific threat are:

1. The UK's Global Threat Reduction Programme which operates and extends a programme of collaboration and international assistance aimed at reducing the threat of proliferation of nuclear and radiological materials. The Programme enables a wide range of non-proliferation and threat reduction activities, ranging from making safe spent nuclear fuel assemblies to improving security at civilian nuclear sites.

2. Programme Cyclamen, which is the joint Home Office and HM Revenue and Customs programme to deploy radiation screening equipment at UK ports of entry. This aims to intercept the illicit movement of dangerous radiological and nuclear materials into the UK. Further details on this programme can be found at:

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-innovation/radiation-screening1/

3. The Home Office-led Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Resilience Programme, established in 2002 to ensure that in the event of a CBRN terrorist incident the response from all concerned will be quick and effective, so that lives can be saved and the impact on property and the environment minimised. This programme has delivered significant improvements in the emergency response to radiological and nuclear incidents. Further details on the programme can be found at:

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/cbrn-resilience/

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she has taken into account on provisions for detaining terrorist suspects before charge in other jurisdictions when formulating her policy on the matter. [174138]

**Mr. McNulty:** We are aware of the policy on pre-charge detention in other countries. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs published a document entitled 'Counter-Terrorism Legislation and Practice: A Survey of Selected Countries' in October 2005. This can be found at:

www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/QSpercent20Draftpercent2010percent20FINAL1.pdf.

We also published a document on 25 July 2007 entitled 'Terrorist Investigations and the French Examining Magistrates System' which can be found at:

www.security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/counter-terrorism-bill-2007/.

### Terrorism: Evidence

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will reconsider the merits of the case for allowing intercept material into evidence in *(a)* criminal proceedings and *(b)* proceedings involving offences under anti-terrorism legislation. [173622]

**Mr. McNulty:** My hon. Friend will be aware of the independent Privy Counsellor Committee, chaired by Sir John Chilcot, which is currently reviewing this subject. The Committee will deliver their report in mid January and we will carefully consider their findings.

### Written Questions

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 165425, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 13 November, on the resident labour market test. [171165]

**Mr. Byrne:** I answered the hon. Member's previous question on 11 December 2007.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Burma: Arms Trade

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the origin of military hardware being sold to Burma. [174820]

**Meg Munn:** We have considered the recent media reports about alleged arms sales to Burma. We continue to encourage all international partners not to sell arms to Burma and to observe responsible arms trade policies.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister reiterated in his statement of 15 October, Burma is subject to an EU arms embargo.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he received on the suspension by India of sales of military hardware to Burma following the recent suppression of pro-democracy protests in Burma; [174825]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Indian ministers on sales of military hardware to Burma. [174826]

**Meg Munn:** We are aware of reports regarding the sale of Advanced Light Helicopters by India to Burma. The EU made formal representations to the Indian Government on this issue in July. The Indian Government assured the EU that it had no plans to sell the Advanced Light Helicopter to Burma. We have continued to make clear to the Indian Government—at the most senior level—that we are concerned that EU manufactured military equipment should not reach Burma via third countries. In a statement on 15 October, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said that we would ask the EU to review the implementation of the embargo with our partners to address any risk that arms or their components might be diverted or re-exported to Burma.

My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, other Ministers and I continue to discuss the situation in Burma with our Indian counterparts. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, also raised Burma during his recent visit to India. We hope India will use its contacts with the regime to press for urgent political reform and dialogue. Like all other partners in the region, they stand to gain from seeing the re-establishment of a prosperous and stable neighbour. We will hope they will join us in working towards that objective.

### China: Falun Gong

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with EU counterparts on the human rights of Falun Gong followers in China; and if he will make a statement. [174168]

**Meg Munn:** We work closely with our EU partners to push for substantive improvements in the human rights situation in China, which includes raising concerns on the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners. We do not take a position on the nature of Falun Gong. However, we continue to support EU action to raise individual Falun Gong cases of concern with the Chinese Government. The EU did this at the most recent round of the EU-China Human Rights dialogue, which was held in Beijing in October. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials also met a vice president of the European Parliament in September to discuss action on a range of human rights issues, including Falun Gong.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Chinese Government on the human rights of Falun Gong followers in China; and if he will make a statement. [174170]

**Meg Munn:** The Government do not take a position on the nature of Falun Gong. We do, however, remain concerned by reports of the mistreatment of Falun Gong adherents, particularly those detained in Re-education Through Labour (RTL) camps. We raise our concerns over individual practitioners and for the need to reform RTL with the Chinese Government at every appropriate opportunity. We discussed this at the last round of the UK-China Human Rights dialogue in London on 5 February 2007. More recently, the Director of Public Prosecutions urged the Chinese Government to reform the RTL system during his visit to Beijing in September 2007.

### European Gendarmerie Force

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 188, on the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF), under what circumstances the Government would give its consent to an EGF operation being held in the UK. [174590]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The primary purpose of the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) is to assist in crisis management operations in post-conflict situations. The EGF will be available on request to any country facing a crisis situation. The Government can foresee no circumstances under which it would give consent to a EGF operation being held in the UK.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the UK did not sign the Treaty of Velsen concluded on 18 October; what discussions he held with other EU Member States on the UK's participation in a European Gendarmerie Force; what representations he received on the matter before reaching a decision; and if he will make a statement. [174591]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK has not held any discussions with other EU member states regarding our participation in the European gendarmerie force, nor have we received any representations.

### Guinea Bissau: EU Defence Policy

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the status is of the European Security and Defence Policy mission to Guinea Bissau. [173717]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** EU Foreign Ministers agreed on Monday 10 December to a general concept for a civilian European security and defence policy mission to provide advice on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau. After discussion, it was agreed that this mission would have a civilian command chain and be financed as a civilian mission. Planning for the mission will be taken forward within the General Secretariat of the European Council. Further decisions, including final agreement to launch the mission, will be taken in the new year.

### Iraq: Overseas Aid

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 437-8W, on Iraq: overseas aid; how much of the £744 million the Government has allocated to Iraq came from his Department. [170807]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 840W.

### Iraq: Resettlement

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1433W, on Iraq: resettlement, and with reference to the statements of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 27WS, and 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 30WS, if he will make it his policy to allow local staff in Iraq who meet all criteria except completion of more than 12 months continuous service to apply for assistance; and if he will consider their eligibility on a case-by-case basis. [175150]

**Dr. Howells:** We have no immediate plans to change the criteria announced by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in his written ministerial statements on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS and 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stated on 30 October that we might review the criteria in the light of experience. We will, however, wish to gather more evidence of the operation of the scheme as originally announced before any such review.

### Ministers

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what departmental guidelines his Department uses on the size of delegation that Ministers will meet in a private meeting; and how many meetings each Minister in his Department has had at the request of hon. Members in the last two years. [173449]

**David Miliband:** There is no formal departmental guidance on restrictions to the size of delegations that meet with Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers. However, common practice is to encourage them to be as small as possible. We do not maintain central records of meetings requested by hon. Members.

### Pakistan: Human Rights

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Pakistan on the two recently-detained Baluchi nationalists; and if he will make a statement. [174584]

**Dr. Howells:** We have informed the Government of Pakistan of the arrests of two Pakistani nationals who were charged on 10 December with offences under the Terrorism Act 2000.

### Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether discussions were held at the EU-Africa summit on the willingness of African countries to send troops to Somalia as agreed under UN Security Council Resolution 1744 of February 2007; and if he will make a statement. [174897]

**Meg Munn:** Discussions about the security situation in Somalia were held at the EU-Africa summit but did not directly relate to UN Security Council Resolution 1744 or troop contributions to the African Union Mission to Somalia.

Delegates noted that the EU's Africa Peace Facility is specifically intended to contribute to Africa's efforts to restore peace to key areas, including Somalia. Discussions highlighted the significant role of the African Union's Africa Peace and Security Architecture in developing an effective security system in Somalia.

### Somalia: United Nations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1042W, on Somalia: United Nations, what contingency plans the UN Security Council has developed for the deployment of a peacekeeping force in Somalia; and how conditions that would require deployment to take place will be monitored and assessed. [173747]

**Meg Munn:** UN Security Council members met with UN agencies at expert level on 5 December 2007 to discuss a UN force for Somalia. The UN is planning to send a technical assessment mission to Somalia to assess conditions and inform further planning. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia is due to brief the Security Council on 17 December 2007.

The UK, including in the Security Council, will continue to support the deployment of the African Union Mission to Somalia and the ongoing political reconciliation process.

### Sudan: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking to achieve the participation of stakeholders in the Darfur peace talks; and if he will make a statement. [173672]

**Meg Munn:** Only an inclusive political process can provide a sustainable solution to the crisis in Darfur. The UK has committed £1 million to support the African Union and UN joint mediation support team, which is currently focused on encouraging the rebel movements to unify further and agree on common platforms ahead of negotiations with the Government of Sudan. We have made clear publicly and directly to the rebel movements that there will be consequences for any party that seeks to obstruct progress.

Civil society and Arab engagement in the political process will be essential for an inclusive process. The UK is filling five key posts in the Darfur-Darfur dialogue and consultation, which will be the main mechanism for civil society engagement in the political process and in longer-term reconciliation and rehabilitation in Darfur.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with colleagues in *(a)* African countries and *(b)* non-African countries to encourage them to send transport and light support helicopters to the African Union-UN force in Darfur, Sudan. [169201]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, has pressed potential contributing countries on the need for helicopters for the UN-African Union hybrid force in Darfur. He has kept in close contact with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which is responsible for generating the force in consultation with the African Union, to complement their efforts.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mandate the African Union-UN peacekeeper in Darfur will have to disarm groups which violate the UN Security Council's arms embargo in the region; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the mandate. [173673]

**Meg Munn:** UN Security Council Resolution 1769 of 31 July 2007 mandates the UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID) to prevent armed attacks, protect civilians, ensure the freedom of movement of humanitarian workers, and support the Darfur peace process. The resolution also mandates UNAMID to monitor whether arms or related material are present in Darfur in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1556 of 30 July 2004, which placed an arms embargo on all non-government entities and individuals in the region.

Until UNAMID has assumed authority in Darfur, which takes place on 31 December, we cannot assess the effectiveness of its mandate. Meanwhile, we are working closely with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the African Union for the prompt deployment of an effective UNAMID force that will be able to fulfil its mandate.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Nitrates

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of farmers who will be affected by his Department's proposals for a revised action programme to control pollution caused by nitrogen from agricultural sources *(a)* within discrete nitrate vulnerable zones and *(b)* across all land in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England. [173995]

**Mr. Woolas:** The consultation on implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England invites views on whether the proposed Action Programme measures should be applied either within discrete Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs), covering 70 per cent. of England, or across the whole of the country. Paper "G4—Assistance in the partial Regulatory Impact Assessment including extended Nitrate Vulnerable Zones", published in support of the consultation, provides details of my Department's assessment of the number of farmers impacted by the proposed Action Programme in either case.

If the decision is taken to apply the Action Programme within discrete NVZs, approximately 139,500 farmers will be affected. If the decision is taken to apply the Action Programme across the whole of England, approximately 195,500 farmers will be affected. No assessment has been made for the Ribble Valley or Lancashire.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial corrections were imposed on the UK by the European

Commission as a result of non-respect of farm payment deadlines in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07. [169445]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The total financial corrections formally imposed on the UK by the European Commission in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07 as a result of non-respect of, or failure to meet, payment deadlines in respect of CAP direct aid schemes are as follows:

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* 2003-04[1] | 1,118,369.01 |
| *(b)* 2004-05[2] | 35,675,037.80 |
| *(c)* 2005-06[3] | 0 |
| *(d)*2006-07[4] | 35,391,104.99 |
| Total | 72,184,511.80 |

[1] Irregularity Decision 481/2003, and Ad Hoc Decisions No.15, 16 and 17.

[2] Ad Hoc Decisions No. 18, 19 and 20.

[3] Ad Hoc Decisions No. 21 and 22.

[4] Irregularity Decision 678/2006 and Ad Hoc Decisions 23 and 24.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to respond to the proposals of the EU Agriculture Commissioner for capping support to larger recipients of the single farm payment. [170646]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The European Commission have not made formal proposals for limiting support to recipients of larger payments under the common agricultural policy (CAP). However, they have raised the possibility as part of their consultation on the forthcoming 'health check' reform of the CAP. The Government will respond to that consultation next spring.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the merits of a de minimis level to single farm payments. [170647]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In the interests of cost effective administration, the UK currently applies the highest possible minimum area size allowed under EU regulations i.e. 0.3 hectares, but has not adopted the permitted option of setting a €100 minimum payment level. The European Commission signalled in its recent communication that it would review both the minimum area size and minimum payment level as part of the CAP 'Health Check'. The Department welcomes this opportunity to review the administrative benefits of various minimum levels alongside the potential impact on affected claimants.

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which part of his Department's budget the penalty for late payment of farm subsidies is to be met. [173582]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The penalty for late payment of the single payment scheme entitlements is made from a separate ring-fenced budget.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if the Government will make partial single farm payments for 2007 before Christmas 2007. [173858]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* RPA does not plan, at this stage, to make partial payments for the 2007 single payments scheme. It is working to meet its targets of making more full payments to more farmers earlier than last year, with a view to making 75 per cent. of full payments, by value, by the end of March 2008 and 90 per cent. by the end of May 2008.

### Animal Welfare: Sports

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to improve the protection of the welfare of animals involved in sporting events. [170304]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government introduced the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which came into force earlier this year, to protect the welfare of all animals, including animals used in sporting events. Under the Act it is an offence either to cause any captive animal unnecessary suffering or fail to provide for its welfare needs.

The Act also provides powers to introduce new regulations to further promote the welfare of animals. The Government have made a commitment to introduce regulations to safeguard the welfare of racing greyhounds. There will be a public consultation on our proposals for greyhound racing before approval by Parliament. We intend to give this matter priority, although the timing of the consultation will be dependent on the response of the industry to the recommendations made in Lord Donoghue's recent independent review of greyhound racing.

Additionally, in January 2007 new EU-wide welfare in transport rules came into force. These provide increased welfare protection when animals are transported in connection with an economic activity such as horseracing. To ensure there is no lessening of welfare protection for animals transported in connection with sporting events undertaken purely for pleasure or competition, the national legislation implementing the EU rules (The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) include a general duty of care provision.

### Avian Influenza: Pigeons

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of whether pigeons can *(a)* catch and *(b)* carry the H5N1 virus. [173620]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA takes a science-based approach to all bird gatherings, including those that involve pigeons (both for showing and racing). A Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA) using the best available scientific evidence is carried out to assess the risk of avian influenza (AI) specifically in relation to pigeons.

The VRA cites evidence available that pigeons can be susceptible to the disease and in particular a study by the European Food Safety Authority in 2006 concluded that pigeons may have the potential to act as a "bridging" species between waterfowl and poultry.

However, available evidence on the ability of pigeons to spread the AI viruses is limited and contradictory. It is likely that the susceptibility of pigeons (and other species of birds) to AI, and the clinical picture caused by infection, is strongly associated with genetic and biological variations between different strains of the virus.

There is research available which suggests that pigeons have limited susceptibility to some virus strains (mainly isolated some years ago), but other more recent publications suggest the contrary and demonstrate that recently isolated strains of HPAI H5N1 could infect pigeons. This later study indicates that pigeons may be asymptomatic carriers of the AI virus.

Pigeons could also spread AI mechanically through infective material on their feet and feathers, and there is potential, especially in long races, for pigeons to land and mingle with wild birds while still on the continent.

### Badgers

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the size of the badger population in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [173990]

**Joan Ruddock:** Surveys of badger populations in Great Britain were undertaken in the mid-1980s and mid-1990s. In the mid-1980s the badger population was estimated to be 250,000 badgers and in the mid-1990s a survey estimated the population had increased by 77 per cent.

DEFRA is not aware of any other national surveys which have attempted to estimate badger numbers in England and Wales.

DEFRA does not have regional breakdowns of these figures.

### Biodiversity

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 738W, on convention on biological diversity, what assessment he has made of the effect on section III, paragraph 23, regarding a moratorium on the development of genetic use restriction technologies, of decision V/5 of the Convention on Biological Diversity on socio-economic and scientific assessments; and if he will make a statement. [173239]

**Mr. Woolas:** Section III, paragraph 23 of Decision V/5 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recommends that products containing genetic use restriction technologies should not be approved for field-testing until justified by appropriate scientific data. Such products for commercial use should not be approved until appropriate scientific assessments (with regard to ecological and socio-economic impacts and any adverse effects for biological diversity, food security and human health) have been carried out. These assessments should be authorised, strictly controlled and carried out in a transparent manner, and only when the conditions for the products' safe and beneficial use have been validated should they be approved for field-testing. The UK Government have supported this decision at the CBD meetings. The views and case studies on the socio-economic considerations will be discussed at the next CBD meeting in May 2008.

### Biofuels: Imports

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much biodiesel was imported into the UK in the most recent year for which figures are available; what the primary sources of crops for that biodiesel were; and if he will make a statement. [173975]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

The total quantities of biodiesel and other transport fuels released for consumption in the UK are available via the HM Revenue and Customs website at http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil During the first 11 months of 2007, for example, over 300 million litres of biodiesel were put onto the UK market. These figures do not distinguish between imported fuels and domestically produced fuels, and the Government are unable to provide a detailed breakdown of this. We are aware, however, that the majority of the biodiesel on sale in the UK is currently being imported, much of it from the United States of America.

The Government do not have detailed information on the feedstocks from which the biodiesel was produced, because there is currently no requirement on transport fuel suppliers to provide this information. The primary feedstocks are likely to have been rapeseed oil, soya oil, palm oil, used cooking oil and tallow.

Once the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) comes into effect in April 2008, transport fuel suppliers will be required to report on a monthly basis on matters such as the feedstock from which their biofuels were produced and its country of origin. The Renewable Fuels Agency will be required to report regularly to Parliament on these matters.

### Birds: Imports

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many seizures of wild birds imported illegally have been made since the import ban on wild birds has been put in place. [172695]

**Joan Ruddock:** From October 2005 to 30 June 2007 (the period covered by the temporary ban on wild bird imports), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) made four seizures of birds illegally imported into the UK. Officials from HMRC used their border enforcement powers under the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). These seizures comprised a total of five wild birds.

HMRC have not made any seizures of wild birds under CITES since the latest EU Regulation for the captive wild bird ban came into force on 1 July 2007.

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list imported birds by *(a)* wild caught and *(b)* captive bred categories imported into the EU in 2006. [172699]

**Joan Ruddock:** Throughout 2006 there was a ban on the commercial import of birds into the EU; there is still an import ban on wild-caught birds. Therefore, only pet birds and birds exempt from the ban for conservation purposes have been imported into the EU. The UK does not hold records for the whole of the EU, as these are held by the European Commission.

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* CITES and *(b)* non-CITES listed birds were imported into the UK from (i) inside and (ii) outside the EU in each year between 2000 and 2007. [172701]

**Joan Ruddock:** CITES listed birds can be moved freely within the Community and no statistics are available of specimens moving within the free trade area.

The number of CITES listed birds imported into the UK from outside the EU between 2000 and 2007 was as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 6,044 |
| 2001 | 11,919 |
| 2002 | 54,499 |
| 2003 | 74,954 |
| 2004 | 18,295 |
| 2005 | 23,478 |
| 2006 | 113 |
| 2007 | [1]— |

[1] No figures currently available

There are no records kept of the numbers of non-CITES listed birds moved into the UK from within or outside the EU.

## Bovine Tuberculosis

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of levels of tuberculosis transmission from cattle to other animals; and if he will make a statement. [173991]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: We have not sought to assess the levels of transmission of tuberculosis (TB) from cattle to other animals for three reasons:

(i) While TB is primarily a respiratory disease in the majority of mammalian species including cattle, the relative importance of different routes of transmission among and between species is unknown;

(ii) Small numbers of many wild and domesticated mammalian species have been shown to be infected with bovine TB, however, most are spill-over end hosts and there is no evidence that they can transmit infection to other species: and,

(iii) Being infected with a disease does not mean that the individual is necessarily infectious to others. The reasons for this are usually immunological (the animal may contain the disease effectively) or behavioural (e.g. the species may be solitary). The current TB testing and slaughter regime applied to cattle ensures that in reality, the number of infected cattle which remain in herds long enough to become infections is extremely low and very few develop clinical signs of the disease.

The principle species affected by bovine TB in GB are cattle and badgers and research from the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB has provided evidence which confirms that there is a cycle of disease between the two. However, it has not been possible to quantify the relative contribution of cattle or badgers to the level of the disease and this will vary between areas.

## Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that compensation paid to farmers for cattle slaughtered as a result of contracting bovine tuberculosis reflects the market values of different types of cattle. [174132]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Since February 2006, cattle compensation for bovine tuberculosis-affected animals in England has been determined primarily using table values, based on contemporaneous livestock market sales prices, for 47 specified categories of cattle.

To support the system, significant amounts of sales data are continuously collected by an independent service provider from a large number and wide range of sources across Great Britain. Information from around 99 per cent. of open sales is captured, and details of about 100,000 individual transactions are collected each month. In 2006, nearly 8,000 cattle sales were included in the table valuations, comprising 1.23 million head of cattle.

## Climate Change

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings he has had with environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to discuss the international meeting of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, being held in Bali; and whether the Government has provided financial support to assist such NGOs to attend the Bali meeting. [172802]

**Mr. Woolas:** On 3 December, the Secretary of State and I held a roundtable discussion on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Bali, with chief executive level representatives from the non-governmental organisation (NGO) and business community.

Financial assistance has been provided to a small number of individuals who are supporting the work of Her Majesty's Government in Bali. However, no funding has been provided to organisations in order for them to attend the Bali conference.

## Departmental Expenditure

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 November 2007 on DEFRA Winter Supplementary Estimate, Departmental Expenditure Limit and Administration Budget Changes, if he will give a detailed breakdown of the *(a)* £80,000,000 in respect of professional services and *(b)* £10,000,000 in respect of the outsourced IT contract; and if he will make a statement. [166337]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Both transfers from Programme Budget to Administration Budget were required in response to HM Treasury's request for a tighter application of the existing classification rules across the whole of Government. The figure was supported by an analysis of the Programme spend in current and previous years with organisations that provide those services. That analysis is currently considered to be commercially sensitive.

Part II of the DEFRA winter supplementary estimate shows which business areas of the Department made the transfers.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170235]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My Department's corporate identity guidelines are not produced in hard copy. They are available to staff through the Department's intranet service. There are no ongoing costs for producing the guidelines. In 2006-07, the guidelines were refreshed for the first time since the Department was established in 2001. The cost of the refresh was £27,500. The refresh has provided a modernised and simplified approach to use of the corporate identity. The guidelines are used across the Department and by a range of stakeholders. It would not be possible to calculate the cost of complying with them.

A copy of the guidelines will be placed in the Library.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167307]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Within the Communications Directorate in core DEFRA, it is expected that the staff costs for branding and marketing in the current financial year 2007-08 including national insurance and pensions will be £1,075,000. This covers 17 full-time equivalent staff working on marketing communication activities for key areas such as climate change, waste, animal disease prevention, water saving, biodiversity and protecting the natural environment.

Individual records of spend for DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies, agencies and financially sponsored organisations are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167347]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In 2006-07, the guidelines were refreshed for the first time since the Department was established in 2001. The cost of the refresh was £27,500. The refresh has provided a modernised and simplified approach to use of the corporate identity. The guidelines are used across the Department and by a range of stakeholders. It would not be possible to calculate the cost of complying with them.

### Farms: Public Footpaths

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who is responsible for changing gates on footpaths across farmland in order to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [174272]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Disability Discrimination Act now ensures that private or public landowners, who are 'service providers', will also be subject to the new provisions of the Act. They are required to take reasonable steps to remove, alter or provide a reasonable means of avoiding physical features, e.g. stiles, which act as barriers to disabled people accessing their services. However, the Act and its implications for rights of way are complicated and in many cases the full extent of its application will need to be established by case law.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what obligations there are on local authorities to display information on behaviour to be adopted when walking across farm land; and if he will make a statement. [174273]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are no obligations on local councils to display signs on behaviour in the countryside when walking across farm land. However, the Countryside Code, which applies in England and Wales and has been widely publicised, makes it clear what the responsibilities are for both the public and the people who manage the land.

### Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research he has commissioned on the compliance with fisheries rules and regulations; and if he will make a statement; [170897]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve the level of compliance with fisheries regulations; and if he will make a statement; [170898]

(3) if he will make a statement on reforming the system of penalties for violations of fisheries rules and regulations; [170910]

(4) how many boat *(a)* owners and *(b)* skippers were convicted for a violation of fisheries rules in each year since 1997, broken down by violation; [170925]

(5) what sanctions were imposed on boat *(a)* owners and *(b)* skippers who were convicted for a violation of fisheries rules in each year since 1997, broken down by violation. [170926]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has recently commissioned research locking into compliance with the reduced margins of tolerance set out in the cod recovery plan. We have forwarded the results of this work to the Commission in support of our request for an across-the-board review of the rules relating to margins of tolerance.

More generally, my officials keep the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) under constant review to ensure that they achieve their enforcement objective in a way that imposes the minimum burden upon both fishermen and administrations. The first step in achieving compliance is to ensure that the rules in place are necessary, can be easily understood and can be effectively enforced. When enforcing the regulations resources are targeted using risk-based systems and sanctions are imposed at levels that act as a clear deterrent to others. We shall be using the forthcoming review of the Control Regulation as an opportunity to re-examine the whole body of CFP control rules to ensure that these objectives are met.

Following earlier discussion with the fishing industry, DEFRA is currently consulting stakeholders over the introduction of a system of administrative penalties for fisheries offences with effect from April 2008. We believe that such a system can deal more rapidly and effectively with fisheries offences, will increase transparency and reduce costs and uncertainty for fishermen and will offer a more appropriate non-court means of disposal for minor offending.

I have arranged for detailed information on the compliance with fisheries rules and regulations to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Fisheries Protection Squadron

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 41W, on the Fisheries Protection Squadron, whether consideration has been given to contracting the Fisheries Protection Squadron for up to 960 patrol days. [173033]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In preparation for the new Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) agreement 2008-13, it was not considered necessary to contract the Fisheries Protection Squadron (FPS) for 960 days.

The current agreement allows a range of 700-950 patrol days per year. The annual requirement for patrol days has been reduced annually to reflect, among other things, the improved capability and performance of the River class vessels since their introduction. The current year (2007-08) requires the provision of 800 days, which includes the use of Hunt class vessels.

### Fishing Vessels

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times on-board observers have visited UK fishing vessels in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [173016]

**Jonathan Shaw:** During 2007 UK vessels participated in a number of different schemes that required observers to be on board. Several observer-accompanied trips were undertaken by UK vessels in the cod recovery zone as part of a pilot scheme, both to test their effectiveness and confirm the extent to which the vessels were able to avoid cod.

In addition, scientific observers from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquatic Science (CEFAS) have participated in 405 sampling trips and a further 20 trips under the Fisheries Science Partnership. These research trips all took place on board UK fishing vessels.

This relates only to observers and not to Marine and Fisheries Agency and Royal Navy British Sea Fishery Officers who, as part of their duties, routinely board vessels operating in UK waters to ensure that they are complying with relevant regulations.

### Floods

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 20 areas are most at risk of flooding; and which region each is in. [172067]

**Mr. Woolas:** Risk is defined in flooding terms as a combination of probability and consequences. There is as yet no national assessment of risk on this basis which can be used to give a reliable ranking as requested. However, the local authority areas in England identified by the Environment Agency's 2006 National Flood Risk Assessment as having the most properties in areas considered to have a significant probability of flooding, (i.e. greater than one in 75 or 1.3 per cent. chance in any one year) are given in the following table.

The actual probabilities of flooding for these properties will vary within the one in 75 and higher probability band and the table should not be regarded as a reliably accurate ranking of areas' vulnerability to flooding. It must also be recognised that this estimation is a complex process and, although techniques are developing rapidly from research to operational methodology, it is subject to further improvement which may lead to changes in probability assessments in the future.

| *Local planning authority* | *Government region* |
|---|---|
| Boston District | East of England |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | South East Region |
| Enfield London Borough | London |
| King's Lynn and West Norfolk District | East of England |
| Spelthorne District | South East |
| Runnymede District | South East |
| Warrington | North West |
| East Lindsey District | East of England |
| City of Leicester | East Midlands |
| Shepway District | South East |
| Birmingham District | West Midlands |
| Reading | South East |
| North East Lincolnshire | Yorkshire and Humber |
| Elmbridge District | South East |
| Merton London Borough | London |

| *Local planning authority* | *Government region* |
|---|---|
| Kirklees District | Yorkshire and Humber |
| Calderdale District | Yorkshire and Humber |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | Yorkshire and Humber |
| Hillingdon London Borough | London |
| Waltham Forest London Borough | London |

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 14W, on the responsibility for surface water flooding, what additional tasks the Environment Agency will perform under its responsibilities for maintaining a strategic overview of all forms of flood risk; and what budget will be available for those additional tasks. [173085]

**Mr. Woolas:** Detailed proposals for the Environment Agency's strategic overview role for inland flood risk are still being considered and will then be subject to public consultation.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects Sir Michael Pitt to publish the results of his review into the summer floods. [173086]

**Mr. Woolas:** The interim report of the review led by Sir Michael Pitt was published today. A final report will be published next year.

### Floods: Dams

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the safety of dams in the event of flooding. [172070]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Reservoirs Act 1975 provides a safety regime for large raised reservoirs and their dams. It is the responsibility of the operators and owners of dams and reservoirs to maintain them in a safe condition in the event of flooding. DEFRA is not involved in making individual assessments of the safety of dams in the event of flooding.

### Floods: North Yorkshire

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many organisations are involved in the management of surface water flooding in North Yorkshire. [173084]

**Mr. Woolas:** In North Yorkshire, as elsewhere in the country, several organisations are responsible for different elements of the surface water drainage network:

(i) The Environment Agency has permissive powers to undertake works to manage flood risk from rivers legally designated as "main" and from the sea, and undertakes flood forecasting, warning and mapping.

(ii) Internal Drainage Boards exist in areas of special drainage need and have permissive powers to carry out works on watercourses not designated as main.

(iii) Local authorities have permissive powers for watercourses not designated as main and not within an internal drainage board area, and for land use planning.

(iv) Highways authorities (including local authorities) are responsible for the draining of areas within the highway boundary.

(v) Yorkshire Water is the water and sewerage undertaker in North Yorkshire and is responsible for the effectual drainage of foul and surface water arising from the drains of premises connected to its sewerage system.

(vi) Riparian Landowners have various responsibilities for the maintenance and effectiveness of drainage channels and watercourses within and along their property boundary, to maintain the integrity of the river banks and to ensure that water flows without obstruction through their land.

(vii) British Waterways is responsible for managing flood risk from its canals.

(viii) Reservoir undertakers have safety obligations.

### Floods: River Thames

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* advice and *(b)* guidance he has given to local authorities along the River Thames on flooding and the prevention of flooding; and if he will make a statement. [169270]

**Mr. Woolas:** Local planning authorities have a major role to play in ensuring flood risk is not increased as a result of inappropriate development. The Department for Communities and Local Government issued strengthened policy guidance on this for planning authorities in December 2006. An accompanying practice guide is being developed as a living draft to provide practical guidance on how to take full account of flood risk when making planning decisions.

The Environment Agency liaises with local authorities, including Thames and London councils, on planning policy and emergency planning including on flood incident contingency planning in local resilience forums.

### Game Birds

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* evaluated on the number of game birds (i) reared and (ii) shot by persons who are not members of registered field sport organisations. [172622]

**Joan Ruddock:** There has been no research conducted on the number of game birds reared and shot by persons who are not members of registered field sport organisations.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 537W, on game birds, what steps he took to *(a)* verify and *(b)* audit the consultations undertaken by public and corporate economic consultants in relation to the 2006 report referred to. [172821]

**Joan Ruddock:** As my Department did not commission this report it has taken no steps to verify or audit it.

### Game: Non-Domestic Rates

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 740W, on game: non-domestic rates, what his timetable is for consulting the Information Commissioner; and if he will place a copy of the Commissioner's reply in the Library when it is received. [172639]

**Joan Ruddock:** The consultation referred to in my previous answer closes on 5 February 2008. A view will not be formed on whether the supply of personal data to the other Government Departments or non-departmental public bodies is tenable until the full set of consultation responses has been analysed. My previous answer referred to relevant guidance, such as that issued by the Information Commissioner. This is already in the public domain and is accessible from the Information Commissioner's website.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 740W, on game: non-domestic rates, what *(a)* statutory and *(b)* other obligations his Department is under to report relevant information on valuation and the recovery of taxation to the Valuation Office Agency; and if he will make a statement. [172823]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA has identified no statutory or other requirement that compels it to report relevant information on valuation and the recovery of taxation to the Valuation Office Agency in respect of data held on the GB Poultry Register.

The personal data held on the GB Poultry Register is subject to the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant legislation. Further information about the legal considerations relevant to public authorities' ability to share data, such as that contained on the GB Poultry Register, can be found in the Ministry of Justice publication, "Public sector data sharing: Guidance on the law", which is available on the Department for Constitutional Affairs website.

### Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to collect recent data on the carbon dioxide emissions from Departments; and if he will make a statement. [172801]

**Mr. Woolas:** Departments are required to report their carbon dioxide emissions data to the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), who report annually. The 2006 'Sustainable Development in Government Report' is available on the SDC website at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006/.

The 2007 report will be published early in the new year.

### Housing: Carbon Emissions

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to raise the levels of grants available for the Low Carbon building programme; and if he will make a statement. [173130]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

When the Low Carbon Buildings programme household funding stream was re- launched in May 2007, we introduced a grant cap of £2,500 per household and a number of other changes. This was to support a greater number of installations with the limited funds available and to reach a wider audience.

Although we have seen a fall in household applications since the re-launch, we are seeing a much better spread of applications across all technologies, which is a key objective of a demonstration programme such as this.

We will continue to monitor the impact of the £2,500 grant cap on application levels. The household stream will continue until funds run out or March 2009, whichever comes sooner. In the meantime, we are working with industry to promote the programme and encourage take-up.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of *(a)* set-up and *(b)* annual running costs of the Green Homes initiative, broken down by main budget heading. [173151]

**Mr. Woolas:** The exact budget and breakdown of costs is not yet known and will be part of the Government's comprehensive spending review prioritisation process. We have committed to provide over £100 million in the next three years to the Energy Saving Trust to develop the proactive Green Homes Service, based on a regional network of one-stop shops. This will build on the £10 million already provided to trial the service.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of households to be offered energy-saving advice from Government-funded initiatives in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [173152]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA funds the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to promote the sustainable and efficient use of energy in the domestic sector. In 2007-08 EST's target is to achieve 1.5 million customer contacts, through a local advice service and the internet. So far this year, the EST is running ahead of its target by around 18 per cent. The roll-out of EST's sustainable energy network of regional advice centres, covering all aspects of individual emissions, is expected to boost customer contacts to 2.25 million in 2008-09 and 2.5 million in 2009-10.

Since its launch in June 2007, there have also been over 600,000 visits to the Act on $CO_2$ calculator, which provides tailored advice to individuals or households on the size of their carbon footprint.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170503]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department's contractors and sub-contractors are expected to have robust internal processes for ensuring appropriate personnel are engaged. From information held centrally, the Department is not aware of any illegal immigrants having worked for the core Department. Similar information on DEFRA'S Executive agencies is not held centrally and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DEFRA came into being in June 2001. Employment in the civil service is in accordance with the civil service nationality rules, which are available at

www.civilservice.gov.uk/nationality

DEFRA expects to comply with the current legislation for the prevention of illegal migrant working (section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996). As a Government Department DEFRA expects to comply with the legislation in this area following guidance set out in the Baseline Security Standard.

The hon. Member may wish to look at the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) website which provides a good overview. The site is at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/18383/18469/fullguidance1.pdf

### Inland Waterways: Repairs and Maintenance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on maintaining waterways in England in each of the last five years. [170522]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA holds information only for the three major navigation authorities British Waterways, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority. It is not possible to disaggregate the figures for Wales from the total for British Waterways and the Environment Agency.

The amount that has been spent on the waterways in the past five years in England and Wales is as follows:

| | £m |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 223.01 |
| 2003-04 | 210.24 |
| 2004-05 | 193.34 |
| 2005-06 | 204.98 |
| 2006-07 | 209.42 |

### Market Transformation Programme: Finance

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent under his Department's Market Transformation Programme. [172137]

**Joan Ruddock:** Since DEFRA was formed in 2001, it has provided just over £13.5 million to its Market Transformation Programme over the seven years between 2001 and 2007. Annual expenditure levels are set out as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 520,000 |
| 2002-03 | 812,000 |
| 2003-04 | 1,200,000 |
| 2004-05 | 2,139,000 |
| 2005-06 | 4,270,000 |
| 2006-07 | 4,600,000 |

### Meat: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of disease transfer arising from the practice of composting meat waste on agricultural holdings where livestock are kept. [173674]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The composting of low-risk (so-called category 3) catering waste and animal by-products is permitted by Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 and the Animal By-Products Regulations 2005.

In 2002 DEFRA commissioned an independent risk assessment to look at the possible risks arising from the composting of this material. The aim of the risk assessment was to assess whether the EU composting standard offered sufficient pathogen destruction that the compost could safely be spread to land, and if so, to recommend alternative treatment standards that were at least as effective as the EU standard.

The risk assessment examined conventional pathogens such as E. coli and salmonella, as well as major exotic pathogens including foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever. It concluded that the standards for the composting of low-risk catering waste and animal by-products were sufficient subject to certain recommendations, for example, a grazing ban for a period of time after application to land. The risk assessment is available on the DEFRA website.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the minimum physical requirements are for separating a meat composting facility from a livestock facility on the same agricultural holding. [173675]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Under the Animal By-Products Regulations 2005, it is an offence to bring animal by-products or catering waste onto a premises where livestock are kept. If, therefore, a livestock farmer wishes to compost animal by-products or catering waste, he must ensure that the composting facility is operated as a separate premises. The precise requirements for separation will be established on a case-by-case basis by the inspecting animal health officer, but typical requirements may include complete fencing off of the composting premises and separate access to the public highway. The inspecting officer will need to be fully satisfied that livestock cannot gain access to the animal by-products or catering waste.

### Mining: Lead

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research the Government have *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* assessed on the release of lead into the environment from land excavation. [171242]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: DEFRA has commissioned no recent research into the release of lead into the environment from land excavation.

### National Fallen Stock Collection and Disposal Scheme

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the fallen stock disposal scheme as it applies to large animals; and if he will make a statement. [174274]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government are satisfied with the effectiveness of the arrangements for collecting and disposing of animals, of whatever size, under the national fallen stock scheme.

Separate arrangements apply for fallen cattle aged over 24 months that must be tested post-mortem for BSE. The effectiveness of these arrangements is also kept under review. Most cattle are collected within 24 hours of notification to the TSE Surveillance Helpline.

### Nitrate Sensitive Areas

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average cost to dairy farmers of implementation of the proposed changes to the action programme for nitrate vulnerable zones. [173994]

**Mr. Woolas:** Annex 2 of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), accompanying the consultation on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England, provides details of my Department's assessment of the likely impact of the average annual cost to dairy farmers of implementation of the possible changes to the Nitrates Action Programme.

The average annual cost to dairy farmers, depending on region and which of the options discussed in the RIA are taken forward, ranges from approximately £200 to £11,000 per farm.

### Nitrate Sensitive Areas: River Trent

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will give consideration to removing the River Trent catchment area from the nitrate vulnerable zone on grounds of the long-term downward trend in nitrate content in the river. [173251]

**Mr. Woolas:** My Department is considering under what circumstances removal of land from within a nitrate vulnerable zone may be possible in the future. The consultation on implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England, which closed on 13 December, invited stakeholder views on this issue.

### Nitrates Directive: Public Participation

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many responses there have been to his Department's consultation on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England. [173996]

**Mr. Woolas:** To date my Department has received approximately 470 responses to the consultation on implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England. The consultation closed on 13 December 2007.

### Office of Climate Change: Manpower

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are employed in the Office of Climate Change, broken down by civil service grade. [173405]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: At 30 November 2007 the Office of Climate Change has a full-time equivalent of 48. It is our policy not to comment on staff grades where individuals could be identified.

### Packaging: EU Law

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 apply to companies who handle packaging in the UK for products which are sold in *(a)* other EU countries which have implemented the EC Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste 94/62/EC and *(b)* non-EU countries. [164469]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 15 November 2007]*: The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 require that producers recover and recycle a proportion of all packaging "handled".

When calculating an individual producer's obligation—the amount of packaging they are obliged to recover and recycle—packaging and packaging materials that are exported from the UK are not included in the final calculation. Imported packaging carries a 100 per cent. obligation.

Any packaging exported to other EU countries would be subject to the provisions of Packaging Waste Directive through the local transposing legislation.

Packaging waste exported to non-EU countries would be subject to the regulations of the import country.

### Pest Control: Rodents

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the merits of lifting the prohibitions on the use of certain rodenticides. [175111]

**Mr. Woolas:** As with other pesticides, approvals are only granted to rodenticides when there is evidence that the proposed use is safe for people and poses no unacceptable risk to the environment. Where necessary, restrictions are applied to ensure safe use. For example certain rodenticides are approved only for indoor use, because of an unacceptable risk to wildlife if they are placed outside. However, prohibitions and restrictions can be reviewed in response to an application, usually from the approval holder. In such cases it is the applicant's responsibility to provide evidence in support of the proposed amendment. In the case of rodenticides, application should be made to the Health and Safety Executive.

### Plastics: Recycling

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to encourage mixed plastic recycling; and if he will make a statement. [172949]

**Joan Ruddock:** Mixed plastics is a term used within the recycling sector to refer to plastic packaging other than plastic bottles, which are the simplest part of the plastics waste stream to recycle.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is undertaking trials with a number of technologies with the aim of understanding the best ways to handle mixed plastics from an environmental, economical and technological perspective. The programme is investigating three main areas: collection, reprocessing, and end markets.

Different recycling and recovery options are being considered as part of this work, including reprocessing mixed plastics into new plastics, incineration, chemical treatment and even turning them into diesel.

WRAP'S focus on mixed plastics follows on from the successful uptake of plastic bottle recycling. Plastic bottle recycling has significantly increased in recent years, with around 132,000 tonnes of plastic bottles collected and recycled from UK households in 2006.

### Recycling: Greater London

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the recycling rates were for each London borough in each year since 1997. [172950]

**Joan Ruddock:** Household recycling and composting rates achieved by each London borough for the period requested can be accessed at the Audit Commission's website at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance/dataprovision-previous.asp

### Reptiles: Imports

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* CITES and *(b)* non-CITES listed reptiles were imported into the EU in each year between 2000 and 2006. [172696]

**Joan Ruddock:** The number of CITES listed reptiles imported into the EU between 2000 and 2006 was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 221,196 |
| 2001 | 211,870 |
| 2002 | 252,924 |
| 2003 | 311,880 |
| 2004 | 277,760 |
| 2005 | 261,044 |
| 2006 | 409,941 |

The UK does not hold records on imports of non-CITES species into the EU.

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* CITES and *(b)* non-CITES listed reptiles were imported into the UK from (i) inside and (ii) outside the EU in each year between 2000 and 2007. [172700]

**Joan Ruddock:** CITES listed reptiles can be moved freely within the Community and no statistics are available of specimens moving within the free trade area.

The number of CITES listed reptiles imported into the UK from outside the EU between 2000 and 2007 was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 8,193 |
| 2001 | 13,454 |
| 2002 | 9,335 |
| 2003 | 13,258 |
| 2004 | 16,459 |
| 2005 | 12,120 |
| 2006 | 25,222 |
| 2007 | [1] |

[1] No figures currently available

*(b)* (i) and (ii) There are no records kept of the numbers of non-CITES listed reptiles moved into the UK from within or outside the EU.

### River Severn: Floods

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 768W, on River Severn: floods, if the Secretary of State will place in the Library copies of the documents to which he referred. [173400]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: I will arrange for copies of these documents to be placed in the House Libraries.

### Sea Fishery Officers: Manpower

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many qualified sea fisheries officers there were in each year since 1997; how many are planned for each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [170775]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The number of qualified British sea fishery officer posts in each year since 1997 is set out in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 76 |
| 1998 | 76 |
| 1999 | 68 |
| 2000 | 67 |

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 67 |
| 2002 | 67 |
| 2003 | 72 |
| 2004 | 75 |
| 2005 | 74 |
| 2006 | 75 |
| 2007 | 75 |

Information on actual numbers of staff in post throughout the period is not readily available as vacancies will arise and be filled at various times during each year.

We have no information on planned numbers of British sea fishery officers over the next 10 years.

### Sewers: Floods

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons were for not extending the powers of the Environment Agency to include flooding from drains and sewers by the end of 2006 as planned in 2004; and what progress is being made towards rationalising responsibilities for drains and sewers. [171021]

**Mr. Woolas:** In 2005 the first Government response to the consultation on 'Making Space for Water' we announced an intention to extend the role of the Environment Agency to include strategic overview of management of flood risk from all sources (rivers, the sea, sewer, surface water and groundwater) and of coastal erosion risk, and that these changes would be implemented progressively by 2009. We have announced the detailed form this new role will take on the coast, to take effect from next April, and are considering how it should be applied inland. As with the coastal overview role, the inland changes will be informed by public consultation.

As part of the upcoming 'Government Water Strategy, Future Water', due to be published early in 2008, we will review approaches to urban drainage, taking account of recommendations from the independent review of the summer flooding being undertaken by Sir Michael Pitt. To support this work, the Government, along with UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR) is spending £2 million on 15 integrated urban drainage pilot studies around the country to test new approaches to reduce the risk of urban drainage flooding. The pilots, to be completed in spring 2008, are intended to clarify responsibilities for urban drainage management.

### Waste Disposal: Leicester

**Ms Hewitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the performance of Leicester city council on collection, recycling and disposal of household waste. [169940]

**Joan Ruddock:** Local authority household waste performance is measured by adding together their recycling and composting rates under Best Value Performance Indicators 82a (household waste the local authority sends for recycling) and 82b (waste sent by the authority to composting or anaerobic digestion).

Leicester city council achieved a 27.2 per cent. household recycling and composting rate in 2006-07. The national average is 31 per cent.

### Waste Management: Environment Protection

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the environment of *(a)* incinerating waste and *(b)* disposing of waste through landfill; and if he will make a statement. [174569]

**Joan Ruddock:** An independent review, peer-reviewed by the Royal Society, on the Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management, was published by DEFRA in 2004. The review concluded that, based on the evidence from studies so far, the treatment of municipal solid waste—including by incineration and landfill—has, at most, a minor impact on human health and the environment. DEFRA has also published a study, "Impact of Energy from Waste and Recycling Policy on UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions", which is available on the DEFRA website.

Eleven per cent. of waste is currently incinerated in England, but an increase is likely to be needed to be able to meet Landfill Directive targets, despite big improvements in waste recycling and minimisation. Recovering energy from waste (including via incineration) offers a considerable climate change benefit compared to the alternative of landfill. This is primarily through avoided landfill methane emissions, with energy generated from the biodegradable fraction of waste also offsetting fossil fuel power generation.

The Environment Agency ensures that emissions and other outputs from waste management facilities are within the limits set by the EU and the UK Government to minimise any negative impact.

### Water: Nitrates

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on levels of nitrates in water; and if he will make a statement. [173988]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: My Department worked closely with the Environment Agency (EA) during the recent review of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in England. The EA regularly monitors nitrate concentrations in waters and this monitoring data played a fundamental role in informing the recent review.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the incidence of silting in rivers and waterways in connection with nitrates found in those waterways; and if he will make a statement. [173989]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: My Department has not made an assessment of the incidence of silting in rivers and waterways in connection with nitrates found in those waterways.

### Wild Boars

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in *(a)* finalising and *(b)* publishing his Department's strategy for wild boar management. [173884]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: My Department has made significant progress in developing the strategy and is currently considering aspects of its delivery. We intend to publish it in the new year as soon as these aspects are resolved.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ACP Countries: Economic Agreements

**Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress there has been on the economic partnership agreement negotiations; and what progress he expects before the 1 January 2008 deadline. [172997]

**Mr. Thomas:** As of 11 December, 17 countries have signed an interim goods agreement with the Commission. These are Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Seychelles, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, the Comoros, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

Commissioner Mandelson reported to the European Union General Affairs and External Relations Council on 10 December that there is a good possibility that Ghana, Namibia, Cameroon, Gabon and the Caribbean will also sign goods agreements before 1 January.

Thirty-two other Least Developed Countries in Africa and the Pacific are not expected to sign a goods agreement or economic partnership agreement before 1 January but will continue to have duty and quota-free access to the European Union after 1 January under the 2001 "Everything But Arms" initiative.

South Africa is not expected to sign a goods agreement or economic partnership agreement before 1 January and will continue to have access to the European Union under its existing trade agreement.

### Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of UK aid to Afghanistan was allocated to security assistance in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [168548]

**David Miliband:** I have been asked to reply.

Assistance to the Afghan security sector in financial year 2006-07, including the police was £17.5 million. This represented approximately 10 per cent. of UK aid spend in Afghanistan. This financial year (2007-08) £27.1 million has been committed representing approximately 16 per cent. of total UK aid to Afghanistan.

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether his Department's work in Afghanistan is primarily intended to support the development work undertaken by the Government of Afghanistan; [173284]

(2) whether his Department's work in Afghanistan is primarily intended to support the counter-insurgency role of UK armed forces in Helmand Province. [173285]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID's programme is primarily intended to support the development work led by the Government of Afghanistan. The best way to do this is by supporting Afghans themselves—which is why over 80 per cent. of our aid goes directly to the Government of Afghanistan. This is helping to build the legitimacy and capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to manage their own finances and economy. DFID's programme focuses on: building effective state institutions and better governance; improving economic management; and improving livelihoods.

As a result of this support, Afghanistan has seen real progress since 2001, with life improving for many Afghans. Around 5.4 million children are now in school, over a third of them girls. This is up from an estimated 1 million children in school in 2001, of whom very few were girls and who were officially denied access to education under the Taliban. Afghan domestic revenues grew by over 300 per cent. between fiscal years 2002-03 and 2006-07 and over £166 million worth of small loans have been given to over 404,000 families, shopkeepers, tailors, farmers, builders and others to invest in legal businesses and increase their savings. DFID also provides support to the Afghan Government's National Solidarity Programme (NSP), which is helping over 18,000 community development councils identify development priorities, and has approved over 32,000 projects in villages across Afghanistan—including building health clinics and schools, and improving water supplies and electricity generation.

All elements of the DFID programme take account of and support the counter-insurgency rôle of UK armed forces in Helmand province, as well as other aspects of the UK's Comprehensive Approach in Afghanistan. DFID provides a development adviser to the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Helmand. Last year DFID provided £4 million of the total £6.2 million UK funding for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), and this year will provide £6 million of the total £9 million of UK funding. By July 2007, over 180 QIPS were planned, on-going or complete, including training programmes for drug addicts, equipment and training for the Afghan police, improvements to the prison in Lashkar Gah, and construction of parks and children's playgrounds. DFID also works with the Government to improve service delivery in Helmand. In 2007-08 DFID provided £10 million of funding to help the Government of Afghanistan improve sanitation, build and maintain roads, and provide credit to support legal businesses, and we plan to provide the same amount next year.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian aid his Department has provided to Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [174279]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID bilateral aid to Afghanistan totalled £98.8 million in 2006-07. Of this, £1.6 million was delivered as humanitarian assistance. Figures for 2007-08 will be available in June 2008. Data are not available on a December to November basis.

### Afghanistan and Iraq: Reconstruction

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made on his Department's reconstruction projects in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [174642]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID provides its main support to physical reconstruction projects in Afghanistan through three Government of Afghanistan programmes: the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), which funds community-level projects chosen by these communities; the National Rural Access Programme (NRAP), which builds and rehabilitates rural roads and bridges; and the Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (HARDP), which funds a wide range of development activity in Helmand province, including wells.

As of 21 November, NSP had completed 15,111 projects in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, an increase of 552 projects on the previous month. It had also rehabilitated 9,333 km of road and 101 bridges across the country, with a further 544 km of road and 16 bridges under construction. Meanwhile, under HARDP, 740 wells have been completed since the start of 2007, with 270 under construction. A further 1,000 wells and 6,030 latrines are planned for 2008. The Government also supports physical reconstruction projects in Helmand through its programme of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). Over 230 QIPs have been implemented by the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Helmand since July 2006, including 100 in 2007-08.

Since March 2003, DFID has committed over £100 million to infrastructure regeneration projects in Iraq. This has helped to create employment for several thousand Iraqis in repairing some of southern Iraq's key infrastructure. We have added or secured 415 MW of electricity to the Iraqi national grid, and will be adding or securing a further 60 MW over the next few months. This will be enough to provide 24 hours of power for around 1 million people. By early 2008 DFID will have improved access to water for 1 million people.

Our work with Basra Provincial Council (BPC) has helped it to deliver a Provincial Development Strategy (the first ever in Iraq), and establish increasingly transparent economic governance. The BPC was consequently able to access $195 million of central Government funds in 2007, after receiving nothing in 2005. We are also working with the Iraqi Government and the BPC to take forward a series of economic initiatives supported by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. They include a Basra Investment Promotion Agency (BIPA) and an overarching 'Basra Development Commission (BDC)', to be supported with advice from international business leaders, including from the UK.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect the *(a)* Basra Investment Promotion Agency and *(b)* Basra Development Fund will have on promoting private investment and reconstruction in southern Iraq; and if he will make a statement; [170811]

(2) how much funding his Department has provided to the *(a)* Basra Investment Promotion Agency and *(b)* Basra Development Fund; and if he will make a statement. [170814]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Basra Investment Promotion Agency (BIPA) is being established to promote Basra as an investment destination and will advise on policies to improve the investment climate. The Basra Development Fund (BDF) will address the weakness of the banking system and lack of access to credit for businesses. It will focus on providing small and medium sized businesses with access to credit. The fund will be capitalised with US$ 30 million from the government of Iraq. Both institutions are expected to be running by March 2008.

In addition, we are helping central and provincial authorities to establish a Basra Development Commission (BDC). The BDC will provide advice on private sector development in Basra and will involve top UK, Iraqi and middle eastern business people.

DFID-funded consultants in the UK-led provincial reconstruction team in Basra are working closely with the authorities in Basra and Baghdad to establish these institutions, and UK funding will cover the initial set-up costs for all three. In total, the start-up costs of all three are estimated at around £1 million for this financial year. The government of Iraq has undertaken to provide funding for ongoing costs from 2008.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 915W, on Iraq: reconstruction, (1) for what reasons the Government maintain that increased attention must be given to monitoring of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq; and what shortcomings have been identified; [172374]

(2) what body will conduct the independent review of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq; [172375]

(3) what the remit of the independent review of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq will be; and what the deadline is for the review to report. [172376]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The United Nations conducts its own internal monitoring systems as standard practice. These tend to focus more on factual outputs, such as number of schools refurbished or text books distributed. Furthermore, each project is assessed based on its own merit. This 'Multi-donor Stocktaking Review' will assess the impact and sustainability of projects funded by IRFFI rather than focusing on the outputs; it will also assess IRFFI funded programmes relative to programmes funded by bilateral donors.

The stocktaking review will be led by a review steering committee (RSC), which is made up of four parties—Canada, the Commission, Japan and the UK. They are appointing an international consultancy firm to conduct the review. This tendering process is close to completion and, when it is, the successful bidder will be announced by UNOPS, the administrating agent.

The stocktaking review will take a comprehensive look at the impact of IRFFI's projects in Iraq as a whole. It aims to provide an independent, results-based assessment of the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of IRFFI-supported programmes. The review will be important for both the accountability of the Iraqi authorities to the Iraqi people, as well as donor agencies to their taxpayers. The review is expected to be completed in the second half of 2008.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures are in place to ensure the monitoring of UK-funded reconstruction projects in Basra in light of planned reductions in UK troop numbers; and if he will make a statement. [174791]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID's reconstruction projects in Basra do not rely on military support for monitoring purposes. Projects are implemented by private contractors and supervised by Iraqi engineers employed by DFID's international contractors who are based in the military base at Basra airport. Planned reductions in troop numbers will not affect this arrangement.

### Africa: Politics and Government

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to co-operate with African Parliaments in countries where the UK has a substantial aid programme. [174587]

**Mr. Thomas:** In Africa, countries in which DFID is assisting, or has recently assisted, Parliaments include the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda. Additionally, programmes to improve public financial management can involve work with parliamentary public accounts committees, as in the case of Zambia.

DFID has committed support to the Pan-African Parliament and has also been funding a project to establish additional African chapters of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank. This network mobilises parliamentarians in the fight against poverty, promotes transparency and accountability in international development and offers a platform for dialogue between the World Bank and parliamentarians.

In order to improve understanding of the issues, we are helping to fund the African Legislatures Project, a three-year comparative research project on the legislatures of 18 sub-Saharan African countries.

Other steps planned or in progress to improve the effectiveness of efforts to strengthen Parliaments include commissioning case studies on the relative strengths of different approaches to parliamentary strengthening; supporting the establishment of a contact group to harness UK-based enthusiasm for strengthening developing country Parliaments; and supporting the establishment of a donor consultative group on parliamentary strengthening.

### Aviation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many miles he and other Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights; [172568]

(2) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result. [172241]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

### Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the funding required to meet the immediate needs of the people affected by Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh. [172879]

**Mr. Malik:** The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) have so far provided over £12 million to meet the immediate needs of the 8.9 million people affected by Cyclone Sidr. The GoB is also distributing water, food, water purification tablets, saline, blankets, tents, utensils and other relief items. The UK has provided £7 million through the United Nations and NGOs for immediate assistance in the form of food, clean and safe water, and the restoration of livelihoods. United Nations reports show that relief efforts have reached nearly all affected areas, with the water availability crisis having passed due to the high attention given to this by the GoB and others.

However, more will be required for the recovery operation. The GoB has appealed to raise a further $1 billion, of which over $213 million has so far been pledged by bilateral donors. The UK is committed to the long-term rehabilitation of the affected area and is considering further support.

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173498]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID uses neither incandescent nor LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173523]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID does not purchase real Christmas trees. One small artificial tree was purchased approximately five years ago and has been used ever since.

### Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department on commercial international passenger flights in each year since 1997. [174356]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173837]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID is fully committed to the Civil Service equality and diversity agenda. DFID's diversity strategy, together with its equality schemes (covering disability, race and gender), provide the broad framework under which our diversity and equality work is promoted and delivered across the organisation. DFID has developed a generic equality impact assessment toolkit to ensure that all its relevant UK policies and processes are assessed for any adverse impact on all six equality strands (disability, race, gender, age, sexual orientation and religion/belief).

In order to meet the specific challenges of this agenda, we have undertaken a comprehensive range of activities. Monetary values have been assigned to these key activities and are set out in the following table for each of the last three financial years.

*DFID spend on diversity activities*

*£000/number*

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Total (inc. staff costs) | 390 | 217 | 459 |
| *(b)* Staff costs[1] | [2]71 | 114 | 173 |
| Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff[3] | 2.2 | 3.1 | 4.5 |

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[1] Staffing costs have been calculated using estimates of the staff time that has been allocated to the equality and diversity agendas in the core diversity team; using average staff cost data by grade

[2] Due to a redefinition of staffing costs, data for 2004-05 cannot be compared directly with that given for subsequent years.

[3] A number of staff outside the core diversity team have also allocated a proportion of their time to promoting equality and diversity issues across DFID. These details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174955]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Three members of staff work in DFID's parliamentary unit. Ministerial correspondence is dealt with by a separate team.

DFID does not keep a record of the proportion of staff time spent dealing with parliamentary questions or correspondence.

### EU-Africa Joint Strategy

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his Irish counterparts on Ireland's reservation to approve the text of the EU-Africa Joint Strategy on the grounds that the strategy supports universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out by the International Conference on Population and Development and the Maputo Plan of Action. [173217]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The UK fully supports universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and therefore DFID has regular contacts, at official level, with counterparts from Ireland about sexual and reproductive health issues.

Ireland's reservations on the reference to the Maputo Plan of Action within the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and Action Plan were raised and discussed in working level meetings with all EU member states. The UK supported the presidency and Commission's approach to agreeing the text of the documents and member states agreed the following progressive commitments:

*Strategy:*

> Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) will be promoted with the aim of achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and to reduce newborn, infant and maternal morbidity and mortality, as set out by the International

Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Maputo Plan of Action, in the context of the Action Plans of this Joint Strategy.

*Action Plan:*

Support the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan for the operationalisation of the continental policy framework for sexual and reproductive health and rights 2007 to 2010 within the context of established EU positions.

The UK worked to ensure that the Joint Africa-EU strategy specifically addresses the off-track health MDGs and is pleased with the final Strategy and Action Plan.

### Gaza: Politics and Government

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Gaza; and what steps he is taking to improve the position for the indigenous population; [172356]

(2) what steps he is taking to address the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [172355]

**Mr. Malik:** On his recent visit to the occupied Palestinian territories (OPTs), the Secretary of State discussed the humanitarian situation in Gaza with Israeli and Palestinian leaders businessmen, donors and humanitarian workers. These discussions confirmed the assessment provided by DFID's regular monitoring, much of which relies on information from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). OCHA's most recent reports indicate that although humanitarian aid is getting into Gaza, restrictions at crossings mean that only 41 per cent. of Gaza's food needs are being imported. Shortages in basic foodstuffs have led to price increases and less food being purchased. 80 per cent. of the population in Gaza now receives food aid. Following the fuel cuts imposed by Israel on 28 October, the public provider of water services is receiving only 50 per cent. of the fuel needed to operate its facilities. Combined with a lack of spare parts for generators, this has meant that some people are only receiving water for one to two hours a day.

The UK is deeply concerned about the situation and we are doing what we can to help. During his visit, the Secretary of State expressed concern to Defence Minister Barak about the humanitarian effect of the reduction in fuel supplies and other Israeli actions. He discussed plans to reopen Gaza's crossings with President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad.

The UK is also providing humanitarian assistance. In 2007, DFID has given £15.6 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to provide essential services such as food, housing and education to Palestinian refugees in the occupied Palestinian territories and wider region. Refugees make up 70 per cent. of Gaza's population. We have provided £15 million to the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) since 2006 for health services, allowances for government workers and water, sanitation and electricity services. We have also given £1 million this year to fund ICRC's emergency appeal for Gaza.

### Iraq: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report,* columns 437-38W, on Iraq: overseas aid, what lessons have been learnt from provincial reconstruction teams in Iraq that could apply to Afghanistan in terms of how and where aid is delivered. [170630]

**Mr. Thomas:** Provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs) were originally established in Afghanistan and adopted in Iraq as a successful model. The PRT model has proven itself as an effective means of improving the delivery and co-ordination of aid and other development activity in conflict environments.

DFID works closely with other Government Departments and international partners to ensure that key lessons from PRTs in both countries are captured. The cross-departmental Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit has a formal role in ensuring that lessons are recorded for wider application, including the co-ordination of civilian and military initiatives. The primary purpose of PRTs in Iraq is to build the capacity of the provincial government to deliver benefits for its citizens. Major differences in the focus of the Iraq and Afghanistan programmes mean that some lessons are not readily transferred, but some general principles are applicable. The importance of building the capacity of provincial government and good governance, and of supporting each country's own central and provincial government to lead on and deliver reconstruction initiatives are major examples.

### Offices

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many overseas offices his Department has; and if he will make a statement. [174790]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID has 68 overseas offices.

### Sudan: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on local level conflict between the Hadendowa and the Beni Amer in Eastern Sudan. [173250]

**Meg Munn:** I have been asked to reply.

Although we are aware of tensions between the Handendowa and the Beni Amer over resources and power sharing, we have not received any significant reports of violent conflict in Eastern Sudan since the signing of the East Sudan Peace Agreement in October 2007.

The UK welcomes the stability that the East Sudan Peace Agreement has brought to the region and urges the parties to implement it fully and fairly. The UK is funding a UN programme to develop a comprehensive risk and threat mapping tool to provide a better understanding of local conflict dynamics, including in the East of Sudan, and to inform future aid programmes.

### Sudan: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he is making to ensure that the moratorium on humanitarian access to Darfur is extended in 2008. [173682]

**Mr. Thomas:** During his recent visit to Sudan the UN's Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, John Holmes, was given assurances by the Sudanese authorities that the moratorium will be extended beyond its January 2008 expiry. The UK is working closely with the UN and other international partners to ensure this undertaking is implemented promptly and in full. The primary mechanism for this lobbying is through the UN-Government of Sudan High Level Committee (HLC). DFID is about to assume the donor representative position on the HLC and we are pressing for a meeting as swiftly as possible.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations the Government have made to the UN Security Council to expedite the deployment of an effective UN-African Union force to Darfur, Sudan. [169113]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I have been asked to reply.

We have called for the early deployment of the UN-African Union force in Darfur (UNAMID) in the UN Security Council. We have been in close contact with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), which is responsible for generating the force in consultation with the African Union, on how we can speed up deployment: my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, spoke to Under-Secretary-General Guehenno, Head of the DPKO, most recently on 6 December to discuss the issue. And my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke about UNAMID with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 7 December.

We are working closely with allies in the Security Council to co-ordinate efforts in support of the DPKO and continue to press all parties for the prompt deployment of an effective force to Darfur.

### UK Search and Rescue Advisory Group

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the UK Search and Rescue Advisory Group met in 2007; and if he will place minutes of the meetings in the Library. [170258]

**Mr. Malik** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* The United Kingdom International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (UKISARG) met five times in 2007 on the following dates:

19 March

16 April

15 June

1 October

24 October

Minutes of these meetings will be placed in the Library.

## DEFENCE

### Africa: EC Action

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the EU Special Committee ATHENA to approve an agreed budget for the EU mission to Chad/Central African Republic; [173729]

(2) when he expects the force generation for the EU military mission to Chad/Central African Republic to be completed. [173730]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** A third force generation conference for the proposed ESDP mission to Chad took place on 21 November, but with critical gaps remaining in the assets offered, further force generation is underway. We continue to work with partners to ensure the process is completed as soon as possible.

Once force generation for the mission has been completed, a budget for the mission common costs will be presented for agreement by the EU Special Committee under the ATHENA arrangements.

### Africa: Military Aircraft

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar and *(e)* VC-10 aircraft will be used for the upcoming EU mission to Chad/Central African Republic. [173718]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 53W.

### Armed Forces: Children

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms his Department provides to help the families of service personnel with childcare while personnel are on deployment. [174474]

**Derek Twigg:** MOD has a very wide range of mechanisms available to support the families of Service personnel with their childcare needs, including while Service personnel are deployed on operations. In particular, we have recently introduced a childcare voucher scheme to assist personnel with the cost of childcare. In the UK, though local authorities and devolved administrations have the lead responsibility for facilitating access to appropriate childcare, many Service locations also have onsite childcare provision tailored for the Service community. This is particularly the case in many overseas locations where the MOD takes the lead in service provision. Service families seeking childcare can access information through the MOD HIVE Information Service and, in UK, through the normal childcare information services. All of these services continue to be available to families while Service personnel are deployed.

In addition, the armed forces have welfare and community support staffs that focus on providing additional support and guidance to the Service community, including childcare development. They and other support groups, such as the Families Federations, are available throughout periods of deployment.

Ultimately, the care of their children must remain the personal responsibility of all Service parents regardless of deployment. This includes a requirement to make plans in advance to cater for their families during any deployments. However, in exploring further ways in which they can be supported in this, the Department is completing a review of the provision of childcare across the armed forces and plans to publish a new MOD childcare policy in early 2008.

### Armed Forces: Coroners

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of providing legal representation for *(a)* the families of servicemen and women killed on operations which were paid for by his Department and *(b)* his Department at coroners' inquests in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [174665]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many departmental personnel on average attended coroners' inquests into the deaths of a serviceman or woman in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [174666]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is keen to support coroners in the conduct of their statutory duty to inquire into certain deaths. The level of MOD attendance at the inquests into the deaths of service personnel will vary depending on the circumstances of the death, and the roles of those attending are varied.

The Ministry of Defence provides the family of a deceased service person with a dedicated visiting officer to support them through their bereavement and it is usual for visiting officers to attend inquests as part of their duties. On occasion, other welfare support staff will also attend to assist the families; each case varies and is largely dependent on the wishes of the families.

An inquest into a road traffic accident on public roads in the UK may have only one or two MOD personnel attending, made up of the family's visiting officer and, as needed, an officer to report on the proceedings and findings. For more complex inquests, there is a greater level of attendance; this may include MOD service and civilian personnel who have been called as witnesses, as well as MOD subject matter experts provided to assist the coroner to establish the facts around more complex areas such as operational or technical issues. The MOD may also have support staff for witnesses and a press officer in attendance on some occasions.

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expected tour length is of Apache crews; and whether there are any plans to change the length of operational tours. [174468]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Apache was first deployed to Afghanistan in April 2006. The current operational tour length for Apache crews is six months, which is generally split into two three-month deployments separated by a three month gap. As of May 2008, operational tours for Apache crews will last for four uninterrupted months.

### Armed Forces: Divorce

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of armed forces marriages that broke down in each year since 2001; and what support his Department provides for armed forces marriages in circumstances where services personnel are absent for long periods of time on training activities or deployment. [172561]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 202W, to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper).

The MOD places a very high priority on the welfare of its service personnel and their families. There are a range of measures in place designed to support marriages for all service personnel and their families including the provision of service family accommodation, and a range of pastoral and welfare services where service families can go for advice and support at all times. This includes close links with organisations such as RELATE.

Support to armed forces personnel deployed away from their home base is primarily through the Chain of Command, supported by service religious leaders and medical staff where appropriate. Service welfare staff remain available in home base locations to support families during deployments of service personnel.

Additional support for those on operational deployments and certain overseas exercises include briefings before and during deployment, free telephone calls, 'e-blueys' and internet access to facilitate communication, extra travel allowances available to dependants and close family members and welfare grants to assist parent units to fund group welfare activities and facilities. Local commanders retain discretion to return service personnel from theatre for welfare reasons. When service personnel return from operations they receive post operational leave (20 days for a six-month tour); which enables them to spend quality time with their families and friends.

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution the Government have made to the appeal to build a new gym and fitness pool for injured military personnel at the Headley Court Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre in Mole Valley. [172709]

**Derek Twigg:** A new charity, Help for Heroes, with the support of a local business Arkenis, advised us in the summer of their plans to launch an appeal for funds to build a new rehabilitation complex, including a gym and swimming pool, at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court. The project would provide a very welcome enhancement of existing facilities, which currently include five gyms and a hydrotherapy pool. We are working closely with the charity to establish how we can best blend their generous offer of assistance with existing plans for improving facilities at Headley Court, a site which is itself owned by a charitable trust. This is yet another example of the third sector compliementing the work of the public sector in providing support to our people by working together.

### Armed Forces: Hospitals

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of UK-based military hospitals have been closed since 2001. [173849]

**Derek Twigg:** A review of the UK's military hospitals as part of the 1994 Defence costs study confirmed that they were no longer able to provide the volume and range of cases essential to train our medical personnel in the advancing medical skills needed for their essential operational roles. The majority of the hospitals were closed during the 1990s, with the training needs of Defence Medical Services personnel being managed through Ministry of Defence hospital units (MDHUs) established within NHS hospitals at Derriford, Frimley Park, Peterborough, Portsmouth, Northallerton, and at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) at University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT).

It was originally intended to retain the Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport, as the tri-service core hospital, primarily to train military medical personnel for their operational role. But the volume and range of cases did not occur, and in December 1998 the Government announced their decision to phase out Haslar and consolidate training within the NHS, building on the establishment of the MDHUs.

Clinical management of Haslar passed to the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust in 2001, and it has not been a military hospital as such since that time. We continued to be responsible for the management of the site until March 2007, when this responsibility also passed to the trust. It is still owned by the MOD and will continue to function, under a partnership arrangement with the NHS Portsmouth Hospitals Trust, until late 2009 when clinical services, along with NHS and some military staff, will transfer to the redeveloped Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham, Portsmouth.

The Duchess of Kent's Psychiatric Hospital at Catterick, closed in December 2003, with subsequent inpatient mental health care for service personnel being provided by a contract with the Priory Group.

While not a full-scale military hospital, the Duke of Connaught Unit, located in the grounds of Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, provides a restricted range of inpatient secondary care to military patients, and Defence Medical Services nurses and health care assistants work at the unit.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties are rented as substitute service family accommodation and substitute single living accommodation in each region; and at what cost. [168872]

**Derek Twigg:** MOD is required to accommodate entitled personnel within 10 miles of their duty station (or 20 miles with permission of their service commander). Where no suitable service family accommodation (SFA) can be found, substitute SFA is offered within the appropriate distance from a duty station.

Substitute single service accommodation (SSSA) is granted to entitled personnel requiring single accommodation when single living accommodation (SLA) is not available at or close to an individual's place of work.

The following tables list all Substitute SFA and SSSA together with the monthly rent payable.

*SSFA*

| *Location* | *Count* | *Sum of rent (£ pcm)* |
|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 4 | 4,900 |
| Birmingham | 113 | 109,162 |
| Bath | 15 | 20,954 |
| Blackburn | 3 | 2,725 |
| Bournemouth | 13 | 14,759 |
| Bolton | 2 | 1,950 |
| Brighton | 1 | 1,995 |
| Bristol | 4 | 4,326 |
| Carlisle | 4 | 2,436 |
| Cambridge | 30 | 33,057 |
| Cardiff | 5 | 4,367 |
| Chester | 3 | 2,425 |
| Chelmsford | 12 | 11,930 |
| Colchester | 5 | 5,841 |
| Canterbury | 12 | 12,181 |
| Coventry | 17 | 15,115 |
| Dundee | 2 | 2,200 |
| Derby | 3 | 2,388 |
| Durham | 2 | 3,411 |
| Darlington | 5 | 3,515 |
| Doncaster | 5 | 3,395 |
| Dorchester | 17 | 14,326 |
| Dudley | 2 | 1,570 |
| London EC | 1 | 1,100 |
| Edinburgh | 1 | 695 |
| Exeter | 14 | 11,158 |
| Falkirk | 7 | 6,473 |
| Blackpool | 1 | 1,025 |
| Glasgow | 3 | 4,032 |
| Gloucester | 15 | 16,558 |
| Guilford, Surrey | 1 | 1,825 |
| Harrow Middlesex | 3 | 7,500 |
| Huddersfield | 1 | 675 |
| Hemel Hempstead | 52 | 88,898 |
| Hereford | 81 | 57,512 |
| Hull | 6 | 3,685 |
| Halifax, West Yorkshire | 1 | 650 |
| Ipswich | 19 | 18,432 |
| Kilmarnock | 2 | 1,825 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 3 | 6,975 |
| Liverpool | 15 | 14,284 |
| Lancaster | 9 | 7,072 |
| Llandrindod Wells | 3 | 2,118 |
| Leicester | 2 | 1,675 |
| Llandudno | 14 | 9,494 |
| Leeds | 8 | 6,445 |

*SSFA*

| *Location* | *Count* | *Sum of rent (£ pcm)* |
|---|---|---|
| Luton | 3 | 5,395 |
| Manchester | 4 | 3,690 |
| Medway | 43 | 33,975 |
| Milton Keynes | 13 | 14,109 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 18 | 17,949 |
| Nottingham | 23 | 16,867 |
| Newport | 12 | 10,249 |
| Norwich | 2 | 2,350 |
| London NW | 1 | 1,820 |
| Oldham | 5 | 3,855 |
| Oxford | 104 | 114,941 |
| Paisley | 1 | 925 |
| Peterborough | 5 | 6,122 |
| Plymouth | 52 | 37,850 |
| Portsmouth | 26 | 35,490 |
| Preston | 10 | 7,357 |
| Reading | 3 | 5,555 |
| Redhill | 2 | 2,820 |
| Sheffield | 6 | 4,104 |
| Swansea | 11 | 7,640 |
| London SE | 2 | 4,682 |
| Stevenage | 3 | 3,967 |
| Stockport | 6 | 6,245 |
| Slough | 22 | 35,906 |
| Swindon | 59 | 50,336 |
| Southampton | 54 | 57,867 |
| Salisbury | 64 | 86,084 |
| Sunderland | 3 | 2,275 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 1 | 675 |
| London SW | 6 | 14,194 |
| Shrewsbury | 3 | 3,720 |
| Taunton | 5 | 4,889 |
| Galashiels | 2 | 1,120 |
| Telford, Salop | 1 | 1,500 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 5 | 7,083 |
| Torquay | 3 | 2,650 |
| Truro, Cornwall | 38 | 31,217 |
| Cleveland | 13 | 10,119 |
| Twickenham | 5 | 15,775 |
| Uxbridge | 1 | 2,400 |
| London W | 1 | 2,433 |
| Warrington | 11 | 8,822 |
| Watford | 1 | 1,800 |
| Wakefield | 7 | 4,605 |
| Wigan, Lancashire | 2 | 1,625 |
| Worcester | 5 | 5,009 |
| Walsall | 2 | 2,319 |
| Wolverhampton | 2 | 1,520 |
| York | 8 | 5,945 |
| Shetland | 1 | 520 |

*SSSA*

| *Location* | *Count* | *Sum of rent (£ pcm)* |
|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 28 | 16,311 |
| St. Albans | 1 | 950 |
| Birmingham | 228 | 176,519 |
| Bath | 142 | 113,207 |
| Blackburn | 4 | 2,500 |
| Bradford | 4 | 2,505 |
| Bournemouth | 5 | 3,730 |
| Bolton | 9 | 6,410 |
| Brighton | 13 | 10,565 |
| Bromley | 8 | 8,687 |
| Bristol | 440 | 343,391 |
| Carlisle | 13 | 7,000 |
| Cambridge | 20 | 16,783 |
| Cardiff | 54 | 31,980 |
| Chester | 24 | 16,835 |
| Chelmsford | 3 | 2,175 |
| Colchester | 17 | 14,350 |
| Croydon | 14 | 11,318 |
| Canterbury | 23 | 17,340 |
| Coventry | 25 | 17,885 |
| Crewe | 2 | 1,195 |
| Dartford | 3 | 2,475 |
| Dundee | 18 | 10,555 |
| Derby | 2 | 1,425 |
| Dumfries | 5 | 2,500 |
| Durham | 4 | 2,110 |
| Darlington | 115 | 69,951 |
| Doncaster | 6 | 3,235 |
| Dorchester | 5 | 3,395 |
| Dudley | 2 | 1,344 |
| London E | 244 | 308,256 |
| London EC | 8 | 9,891 |
| Edinburgh | 51 | 35,299 |
| Enfield | 3 | 2,196 |
| Exeter | 22 | 17,374 |
| Falkirk | 21 | 11,563 |
| Blackpool | 60 | 37,278 |
| Glasgow | 219 | 150,180 |
| Gloucester | 15 | 10,788 |
| Guilford, Surrey | 69 | 57,545 |
| Harrow Middlesex | 7 | 6,814 |
| Huddersfield | 7 | 3,794 |
| Harrogate | 13 | 8,945 |
| Hemel Hempstead | 3 | 2,330 |
| Hereford | 68 | 53,818 |
| Hebrides | 1 | 425 |
| Hull | 19 | 10,312 |
| Halifax, West Yorkshire | 3 | 1,710 |
| Ilford | 6 | 5,775 |
| Ipswich | 95 | 92,781 |
| Inverness | 20 | 11,260 |
| Kilmarnock | 38 | 23,785 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 8 | 8,125 |
| Kirkwall | 1 | 525 |
| Kirkcaldy | 11 | 6,287 |
| Liverpool | 86 | 50,760 |
| Lancaster | 119 | 75,421 |
| Llandrindod Wells | 38 | 22,007 |
| Leicester | 22 | 14,010 |
| Llandudno | 35 | 22,190 |
| Lincoln | 5 | 3,835 |
| Leeds | 28 | 17,011 |
| Luton | 7 | 4,425 |
| Manchester | 43 | 27,235 |
| Medway | 8 | 5,719 |

| | *SSSA* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Location* | *Count* | *Sum of rent (£ pcm)* |
| Milton Keynes | 23 | 25,210 |
| Motherwell | 4 | 2,340 |
| London N | 31 | 35,124 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 88 | 54,096 |
| Nottingham | 27 | 15,944 |
| Northampton | 1 | 625 |
| Newport | 38 | 24,581 |
| Norwich | 5 | 3,664 |
| London NW | 59 | 85,210 |
| Oldham | 4 | 2,449 |
| Oxford | 47 | 50,953 |
| Paisley | 6 | 3,345 |
| Peterborough | 9 | 7,715 |
| Perth | 15 | 8,688 |
| Plymouth | 9 | 8,335 |
| Portsmouth | 9 | 6,532 |
| Preston | 69 | 43,956 |
| Reading | 9 | 7,618 |
| Redhill | 6 | 4,513 |
| Romford | 15 | 12,830 |
| Sheffield | 31 | 19,966 |
| Swansea | 15 | 9,831 |
| London SE | 202 | 234,305 |
| Stockport | 4 | 2,470 |
| Slough | 15 | 17,634 |
| Sutton | 1 | 700 |
| Swindon | 80 | 59,540 |
| Southampton | 20 | 14,366 |
| Salisbury | 62 | 48,644 |
| Sunderland | 2 | 1,070 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 4 | 2,829 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 19 | 12,678 |
| London SW | 474 | 615,894 |
| Shrewsbury | 6 | 4,145 |
| Taunton | 27 | 16,768 |
| Galashiels | 3 | 1,572 |
| Telford, Salop | 1 | 775 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 40 | 32,647 |
| Torquay | 1 | 625 |
| Truro, Cornwall | 15 | 10,415 |
| Cleveland | 17 | 10,018 |
| Twickenham | 60 | 62,486 |
| London W | 83 | 95,021 |
| Warrington | 15 | 8,486 |
| London WC | 1 | 1,000 |
| Watford | 2 | 1,830 |
| Wakefield | 20 | 12,743 |
| Wigan, Lancashire | 5 | 2,871 |
| Worcester | 13 | 9,371 |
| Walsall | 4 | 2,572 |
| Wolverhampton | 4 | 2,405 |
| York | 32 | 19,958 |

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance is available to non-forces spouses to find suitable alternative accommodation following the breakdown of armed forces marriages. [172557]

**Derek Twigg:** Every effort is made by the services to effect a reconciliation, with the local service commander able to authorise a 'cooling off' period of up to three months. During this time, it is usual for the service person to move into single living accommodation, leaving the other party in the services family accommodation (SFA).

After the 'cooling off' period or when it becomes clear that no reconciliation is possible, the local service authorities are required to inform the Housing Information Centre (HIC) of the change in circumstance. The HIC will then issue a 93-day Notice to Vacate for the party who remains in the property, and also a 'Certificate of Cessation of Entitlement to Occupy Service Families Accommodation' that will assist the family to seek social housing from their local authority on expiry of the 'notice to vacate' their SFA. However, no one will be evicted from SFA until alternative accommodation has been found.

Within the armed forces, further advice for both partners with regards to finding new accommodation is available from the Joint Services Housing Advice Office (JSHAO). In addition to providing advice, the JSHAO operates a nomination scheme with a number of housing associations in England and Wales that allow applicants to apply for social housing in areas in which they wish to reside.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 937W, on armed forces housing, what plans he has for accommodation disposal in each of the next three years; and how much will be generated from each such disposal. [173733]

**Derek Twigg:** The majority of service families accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales is leased from Annington Homes Ltd. and properties no longer required for defence purposes are returned to the company. Although no receipt accrues to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in respect of properties returned, there are savings in rent, contributions in lieu of council tax and maintenance.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, surplus SFA are sold on the open market. We currently have plans to dispose of 600 properties in Scotland and 800 in Northern Ireland over the next three years.

Overseas, the majority of SFA are returned to the host government when no longer needed, but SFA on permanent joint operations bases are owned by the MOD. When they are no longer required, the future of these properties is determined by the MOD.

In respect of single living (barrack) accommodation (SLA), this is usually within the wire of a service establishment and the disposal normally forms part of the disposal of the wider site. Receipts cannot, therefore, be estimated specifically for SLA.

As part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review, the Department agreed overall defence estate disposal targets (including accommodation) as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 403 |
| 2008-09 | 176 |
| 2009-10 | 310 |
| 2010-11 | 296 |

It is not possible to separate out the accommodation element of these targets. Receipts from house sales will depend on market conditions at the time of sale, the area and the type of property. To release any valuations we may have carried out ahead of the sale would, in any case, be likely to influence the market and these are thus regarded as commercially confidential until the sale is complete.

### Armed Forces: Manpower

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of each pinch point trade is exceeding the harmony guidelines. [173728]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 942W. There are no updated statistics since that answer was given.

### Armed Forces: Recruitment and Retention

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve recruitment and retention in the armed forces. [167887]

**Derek Twigg:** All three Services undertake numerous and varied initiatives, both at national and local level, aimed at sustaining and increasing the level of recruitment to the armed forces. Included among the many current initiatives are:

The use of multi-media advertising campaigns, including digital media;

Services' presentation teams' attendance at schools, careers fairs and graduate recruitment seminars, road shows, exhibitions, youth clubs and organisations;

Specialist teams to attract doctors, dentists, nurses, lawyers and padres by promoting Service careers within specialist recruitment shows and through professional bodies.

Work experience placements within Service establishments.

Personal development courses and Look at Life Courses for young people who express an interest in the armed forces.

Taster day visits to HM ships and service establishments.

A dedicated careers website for each of the Services complete with a dedicated information support call centre.

An Army 'on-line' recruiting office, with plans for this to be replicated by the other Services;

Specialist ethnic minority recruiting and diversity action teams aimed at promoting armed forces careers among the UK's ethnic minority and faith communities;

A partnership with Jobcentre Plus, making use of its network (totalling in excess of 1,100) of local outlets;

Financial incentives, for example: Golden Hellos, for those who have studied specific vocational subjects to a set level; and re-joining bounties to certain trades.

Turning to retention; in the armed forces as a whole, retention rates are broadly stable and we have seen no sudden outflow of personnel. However, there are areas where exit rates remain too high. These areas are continuously monitored closely and focused action taken to continue to improve recruitment and retention. We continue to restructure our forces so that they can best meet operational demands. Retention measures such as commitment bonuses, re-engagement packages, financial retention initiatives and initiatives to improve work/life balance and working conditions at the front line, continue to be used with the aim of discouraging outflow. There are a number of specific initiatives currently being undertaken such as the strategic remuneration review and the defence living accommodation strategy which will contribute towards this effort. In addition, we have made improvements to travel allowances to permit personnel to get home more easily and we continue to add to the deployment welfare package, that provides additional support to people deployed on operations and their families. We have also introduced a council tax rebate for serving personnel deployed on designated operations while also promoting measures such as work/life balance and career breaks to improve the day-to-day lives of Service personnel and their families.

The Services are also currently examining further non-financial retention measures including, in the near term, continuance of service, restructuring of trades to relieve pinch points, and being more flexible on what rank is required for a given post. Longer term work is also being carried out into the potential for easier movement between regular and reserve service, more flexible employment generally, assistance with house purchase, and any opportunities for stability a more regionalised Service might offer.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training areas in the United Kingdom place restrictions on training due to environmental concerns. [174490]

**Derek Twigg:** The MOD has both self imposed as well as legal restrictions placed upon training on all its training areas. Dependent upon the size, location and type of training area these restrictions may be simply to meet basic legal requirements and good practice standards, or they could be significant limitations imposed as a result of conservation designations or planning permissions. This ensures the long term sustainability of the estate.

### Armed Services Capacity

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 568, on armed services capacity, if he will place in the Library a copy of the assumptions and methodology used to estimate the cost of three infantry battalions at £700 million; and if he will make a statement. [173734]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** While the costs of an infantry battalion are not generally held centrally (as these figures are extensive and spread over a wide variety of budgets), a set of general assumptions on which to base an illustrative costing of adding three infantry battalions has been developed.

These costings are dependent on the inter-relationship of a range of complex factors. Each of the assumptions that have been made is regarded as the most reasonable for indicative costing. Costs would break down broadly into two categories: the initial start-up and capital investment costs, and the annual running costs.

Changes to these assumptions (particularly on the unit role or accommodation requirements) could result in significant changes to the overall total.

The following assumptions informed the costing:

Three light role infantry battalions, based in the UK, not held at high readiness and consisting of 625 personnel per battalion;

Three new barracks (furnished and equipped to standard). It is assumed that there are no existing empty barracks that are fit for purpose in which to accommodate the battalions, and co-location on a single site is unlikely;

The requirement for new single living accommodation (furnished and equipped to standard) (400 SLAs per battalion);

*The requirement for new service family accommodation* (furnished and equipped to standard) (225 SFAs per battalion);

Build is on land currently owned by MOD (therefore, there is no cost assumed for any requirement to purchase land);

There are no appreciable costs to gain planning permission or prepare the sites and access to them;

That over the period of implementation, this will not materially change the totality of Defences demand for personal clothing and equipment;

There is no impact on the Equipment Customer Capability Programme in that existing and programmed equipments, vehicles and communication items are whole fleet managed;

Initial recruitment costs are based on a total of 2,802 enlistments required to generate a throughput of 1,875;

Basic and collective training costs[1];

Annual barrack running costs estimated at 10 per cent. of cost of new build;

Annual salary costs (pay, national insurance and pensions) based on salaries within a rank structure of a light role infantry battalion;

No additional cost is assumed for allowances such as operational, separation and education allowances;

No other running cost is assumed (e.g. annual recruitment and retention and other costs);

No depreciation and cost of capital charges are assumed;

Figures quoted are at 2007-08 prices.

Based on these assumptions, the following costs were derived:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| *Initial start-up costs (estimated)* | |
| Cost of new barracks (furnished and equipped to standard, including approximately 400 SLA per battalion) (£150 million x 3) | 450 |
| Cost of building additional 225 (x 3) SFA (estimated at £200,000 per SFA) | 135 |
| Recruitment costs (given a recruit pass rate of only 67 per cent., a total of 2,802 enlistments are required to generate a throughput of 1,875 (625 personnel per battalion) at a cost of £12,000[2] per enlistment | 34 |
| Basic training costs (£29,000 per person) | 54 |
| Total | 673 |
| | |
| *Annual costs (estimated)* | |
| Annual barrack running costs (estimated at 10 per cent. of cost x 3) | 45 |
| Collective training costs (£1 million per battalion) | 3 |
| Annual salary costs (£19 million x 3) | 57 |
| Total | 105 |
| | |
| Overall total | 778 |

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[1] The battalions will conduct the following collective training (CT): CT levels 1 and 2—individual and sub unit training; CT level 3—unit level training—in this context it is assumed that the battalions will conduct exercises Druids Dance and Wessex Warrior. For the purposes of this exercise CT 4/5 training has been excluded (the all arms overseas training exercise in Kenya) on the assumption that there would be no increase in the incident of currently funded exercises; the key cost drivers are ammunition costs. T and S costs have been estimated as have clothing and textile costs based on usage for units in 1 (UK) Division. No account has been taken of longer separation allowance costs for training activities.

[2] Costs are calculated on a full cost basis and therefore contain an element of overhead as well as fixed and variable costs.

## Army: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are plans to change the length of operational tours for the Army. [174476]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are no plans to change the standard six-month tour of duty for Army units. A small number of individuals (reviewed on a case by case basis) undertake longer tours for purposes of continuity and relationship building.

## Army: Recruitment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the target number was of recruits to the Army in each month in 2007, broken down by corps; and how many were recruited in each month. [169348]

**Derek Twigg:** Recruiting targets are set against an annual, not monthly, requirement across financial years. Officers are not recruited against Arm or Corps targets but against a whole Army requirement. The annual enlistment targets for soldiers only are shown as follows, together with the figures actually achieved.

| | *Financial year* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006-07* | | *2007-08* | |
| *Arm or Corps* | *Enlistment achievement* | *Annual target* | *Enlistment achievement to 31 October* | *Annual target* |
| Household Cavalry | 170 | 170 | 80 | 170 |
| Royal Armoured Corps | 630 | 630 | 360 | 680 |
| Royal Artillery | 970 | 1,030 | 690 | 1,020 |
| Royal Engineers | 1,340 | 1,370 | 760 | 1,480 |
| Royal Signals | 750 | 870 | 320 | 880 |
| Army Air Corps | 210 | 190 | 150 | 200 |
| Royal Logistics Corps | 2,100 | 2,410 | 930 | 2,080 |
| Army Medical Services | 430 | 450 | 250 | 460 |
| Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers | 1,290 | 1,060 | 710 | 1,340 |
| Adjutant-General's Corps | 260 | 400 | 190 | 370 |
| Intelligence Corps | 160 | 160 | 50 | 110 |
| Corps of Army Music | 40 | 70 | 30 | 70 |
| Infantry | 4,310 | 4,260 | 2,570 | 4,940 |

Statistics have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

### AWE Burghfield

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the current risk assessment at AWE Burghfield was adopted; and what plans there are to revise it. [172495]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** AWE plc implemented a revised risk assessment for operations at Burghfield in September 2007. This replaced the previous risk assessment, which had been adopted in 2002. Any further reviews will be undertaken in consultation with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

### Cumbria

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166571]

**Derek Twigg:** There are no such plans.

### Defence Equipment and Support Organisation: Manpower

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were employed by the Ministry of Defence in acquisition roles with the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation in each of the last three years. [173410]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* Defence Equipment and Support (DE and S) was formed on 2 April 2007 as a result of the merger of the Defence Procurement Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation. At the time of the merger, the total staff employed in the new organisation was 27,512 all of whom were directly or indirectly contributing to the defence acquisition process.

### Defence Medical Services: Manpower

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* operational requirement and *(b)* strength is of medical personnel treating head injuries in Operation Herrick and Operation Telic; [168883]

(2) how many neurosurgeons are currently deployed in British forward field hospitals in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; [168889]

(3) what the Defence Medical Services policy is on medical manning and capabilities required for the treatment of head injured patients. [168893]

**Derek Twigg:** All Defence Medical Services (DMS) personnel engaged in the treatment of head injured patients, both on operations and in NHS hospitals when not deployed, are trained to NHS clinical standards, with the addition of specific training in military surgical skills.

In my written ministerial statement of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 74-75WS, I announced that the MOD had endorsed a new DMS manpower requirement specifying the number of uniformed regular DMS personnel required to support operations, provide peacetime health care and allow for continued training and the provision of headquarter staff during deployment.

The UK field hospital deployed on Operation Herrick has its full complement of UK specialist medical personnel required for treating serious head injuries, namely one neurosurgeon, one anaesthetist and two intensive treatment unit nurses.

Medical support for UK casualties suffering serious head injuries on Operation Telic is provided by a multinational team based in a US facility at Balad. Further specialised medical treatment is available in the region.

For both operational theatres, once the condition of the patient has been stabilised, they will be airlifted back to the UK.

### Defence: Planning

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he intends to review the Defence Planning Assumptions; and if he will make a statement. [137885]

**Des Browne:** The Defence Planning Assumptions are routinely reviewed as part of the Department's strategic planning cycle. This work is under way and will be completed in 2008.

### Defence: Procurement

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* contract amendments and *(b)* post design services contracts were awarded by his Department post main gate for each equipment acquisition programme worth over £100 million audited by the National Audit Office and reported on in major projects reports published since 2001; and what their value was expressed as a percentage of the contract price agreed at main gate. [171829]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average rate of inflation was for major defence procurement projects in each of the last five years. [172744]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The Ministry of Defence does not produce measures of inflation by major procurement project.

Work is under way to develop an index which will help to provide an aggregate measure of defence equipment inflation.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total expenditure was on fees for professional services, as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy, in near cash terms, in each financial year since 2000-01. [169350]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The total resource costs of the expenditure item are set out in the following table:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 453.2 |
| 2001-02 | 556.4 |
| 2002-03 | 508.5 |
| 2003-04 | 581.7 |
| 2004-05 | 532.2 |
| 2005-06 | 527.1 |
| 2006-07 | 459.0 |

Near cash expenditure is not separately identified in the final resource accounts or the centrally held supporting records. Total resource costs have therefore been provided; however it is unlikely that there are any non cash costs attributed to the expenditure item which would result in the near cash expenditure being different from the resource expenditure.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168110]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows the number of UK regular armed forces personnel in each service who are British, EU foreign nationals, non EU foreign nationals and the number of personnel whose nationality is not centrally recorded.

MOD civilian foreign nationals cannot be broken down into EU/non EU nationalities, as all foreign nationalities are recorded as 'Other' in personnel administration systems.

| *Nationality* | *Naval Service*[1] | *Army*[2] | *RAF*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| British | 37,540 | 99,230 | 44,930 |
| EU foreign nationals | 60 | 220 | 30 |
| Non-EU foreign nationals | 540 | 6,750 | 50 |
| Not centrally recorded | 710 | 0 | 370 |

[1] As at 1 April 2007.

[2] Due to ongoing data validation from a new personnel administration system, Army figures are not available at 1 April 2007. Figures are therefore shown as at 1 March 2007.

*Note:*

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest 20 to prevent systematic bias.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of maintaining his Department's daily blog for each of the last six months. [173186]

**Derek Twigg:** The internet hosting cost of the Defence News blog (www.blogs.mod.uk) has been £49.95 per month for each of the last six months. There have been no additional staff costs.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170236]

**Derek Twigg:** Disks containing the corporate identity guidelines for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force will be placed in the Library of the House; those for the Department of State and the British Army are under development, and will be added in early 2008.

From 29 November 2006 to 28 November 2007 the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Public Relations spent £46,680 on producing corporate identity guidelines for the Army. The estimated annual cost of complying with these guidelines is nil.

Accurate information on how much Defence Agencies, Top Level Budget areas, Trading Funds, Joint Headquarters, single Service Commands and military units may have spent on producing and complying with corporate identity guidelines is not held centrally, and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total expenditure was on public relations as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy, in near cash terms, in each financial year since 2000-01. [173735]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The total resource costs against this resource account code are set out in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *Publicity relations (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 17.8 |
| 2001-02 | 19.4 |
| 2002-03 | 16.6 |
| 2003-04 | 23.5 |
| 2004-05 | 28.5 |
| 2005-06 | 21.8 |
| 2006-07 | 22.5 |

Near cash expenditure is not separately identified in the final resource accounts or the centrally held supporting records. Total resource costs have therefore been provided; however it is unlikely that there are any non cash costs attributed to the expenditure items which would result in the near cash expenditure being different from the resource expenditure.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* parliamentary questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174961]

**Derek Twigg:** A total of 19 people work in the MOD parliamentary branch. 17 people's primary responsibility is to work on parliamentary questions or ministerial correspondence. Some posts include other duties such as assisting Ministers with their other responsibilities to Parliament.

The main role of the parliamentary branch is to process the Department's parliamentary business. Advice to Ministers on responding to parliamentary business is prepared by the relevant subject matter experts across the Ministry of Defence, both Service personnel and civilians, who number several hundreds.

## Departmental Pay

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the change in his Department's civilian salaries was measured against retail price index inflation in each financial year since 2001-02. [169473]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The percentage change year on year and the change in the Retail Prices Index year on year were as follows:

| | *Change in the average salary* | *Percentage Change in RPI* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 3.8 | 2.1 |
| 2003-04 | 5.8 | 2.8 |
| 2004-05 | 1.5 | 3.1 |
| 2005-06 | 3.7 | 2.6 |
| 2006-07 | 5.1 | 3.7 |

*Note:*
The data include permanent and casual personnel employed by the Department excluding personnel in trading funds.

The percentage changes are reported to one decimal place.

The average salary per financial year from 2001-02 for civilian employees has been calculated using (i) the number of full time equivalent civilian employees and (ii) the expenditure recorded in the Department's accounts for civilian "salaries and wages". These figures include some allowances, such as overseas allowances and London weighting, which are included with pay.

## Departmental Property

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's accommodation budget allocation is for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [162574]

**Derek Twigg:** The MOD does not have a central budget for housing and other living accommodation. Expenditure is spread over the Department's top level budget (TLB) infrastructure, although a significant proportion is administered by the Defence Estates TLB. The MOD is forecasting to spend over £800 million on housing and other living accommodation for 2007-08. This sum includes investment, maintenance and other running costs, such as rental payments and contributions in lieu of council tax.

Budgets for future years have not yet been set following the conclusion of the comprehensive spending review.

## Departmental Responsibilities

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regulations his Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked in the last 12 months. [167084]

**Derek Twigg:** The Department has made 35 statutory instruments since 1 October 2006. The information requested about the number of instruments which have been revoked in the period could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Training

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* dates, *(b)* locations and *(c)* costs were of the last four awaydays of his Department's Departmental Board. [173187]

**Derek Twigg:** The Defence Management Board normally holds awayday meetings twice a year at Defence locations, to review in an informal setting strategic issues facing the Department. The locations and net additional costs of the last four awaydays are set out in the following table:

| | *Location* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 6 April 2006 | RAF Museum, Hendon | 734 |
| 4 to 5 October 2006 | Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC), Shrivenham, Wiltshire | 1,555 |
| 28 to 29 March 2007 | Officers Mess, Worthy Down Station, Winchester | 651 |
| 10 to 11 October 2007 | HMS ALBION (Greenwich) and MOD Main Building | 366 |
| Total | | 3,306 |

## Duke of Connaught Medical Unit

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to upgrade the role of the Duke of Connaught Medical Unit in Belfast; and if he will make a statement. [174701]

**Derek Twigg:** There are no current plans to upgrade the role of the Duke of Connaught Medical Unit in Belfast.

## Ex-servicemen: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area have received veteran's badges. [172187]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, 612 veterans badges have been issued to individuals who have included Chelmsford in their address.

## Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Veterans' Badges have been issued by the Veterans Agency; what estimate he has made of the number of people who are entitled to receive such badges; what plans he has for further publicity relating to the badges; and if he will make a statement. [174325]

**Derek Twigg:** The Veterans Policy Unit administered HM armed forces veterans badges from May 2004 until 17 April 2005. During this period 82,000 badges were issued. Since 18 April 2005 the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency have been responsible for the badge administration and have issued 461,212.

Every HM armed forces veteran, approximately 4.8 million, is entitled to the HM armed forces badge. The eligibility to apply for the HM armed forces veteran's badge and UK merchant seafarers veteran's badge is advertised on the service personnel and Veterans Agency website:

www.veteransagency.mod.uk

It has also been publicised through Government and ex-service organisation publications, local and national press articles and through badge-presentation ceremonies. Opportunities to provide further publicity for the scheme are continually sought. Currently badge applications have been invited from personnel who served prior to 31 December 1994 and an announcement of the next extension of eligibility to apply for the badges will be made in the near future, which will bring future publicity.

### Firing Ranges: Dartmoor National Park

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of the licence his Department has applied for to the Dartmoor National Park Authority to use Dartmoor for military training from 2012; and if he will make a statement. [174491]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not require a licence from Dartmoor National Park Authority in order to use Dartmoor for military training. However, the MOD does hold licences to train on privately owned land within the Dartmoor national park, this includes a licence granted by the Duchy of Cornwall which expires in 2012. We are currently undertaking an environmental appraisal in order to inform prospective renegotiation.

### Fisheries: Navy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 39-41W, on fisheries: Navy, (1) for what reasons the recall of the river class offshore patrol vessels between 15 and 19 June 2007 due to a davit failure was not classified as lost patrol days; and if he will make a statement; [171722]

(2) what the circumstances were of the davit failure that resulted in the three river class offshore patrol vessels being recalled; and if he will make a statement. [171723]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Structural deformation of HMS Mersey's davit occurred during routine safety testing during a planned maintenance period in June 2007. In consultation with all the regulatory authorities it was concluded that a structural modification was required to ensure continued safe operation of the davits on all three vessels. The modification was completed and all three vessels were able to resume their operational duty within seven days. No further problems have been experienced.

The programmed fishery patrol days not undertaken as a result of this maintenance period were rescheduled and the number of patrol days agreed in the contract between the MOD and DEFRA will be achieved.

### Frigates

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the remaining Type 22 frigates. [137887]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** On present plans, which are routinely reviewed, the Type 22 frigates will begin to leave service around the middle of the next decade. HMS Cornwall will be withdrawn in 2015, followed by HMS Campbeltown and HMS Cumberland in 2017, then finally HMS Chatham in 2018.

### Iraq: Overseas Aid

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 437-8W, on Iraq: overseas aid; how much of the £744 million the Government have allocated to Iraq came from his Department. [170809]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Malik) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 840W.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of time to evacuate soldiers with brain injuries to neurosurgical facilities is in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [168891]

**Derek Twigg:** In both Iraq and Afghanistan, for all serious operational injuries that require treatment in a field hospital, our doctrine is to provide emergency battlefield care within the first hour after wounding, and—for those requiring further treatment—within two hours to have transported every casualty to a UK or coalition field hospital.

In Iraq, we routinely adhere to this 'two-hour to surgery' limit, although in Afghanistan, where the distances can be significantly greater, we may, if appropriate, deploy a medical emergency response team (MERT) directly to the casualty, enabling advanced medical care to be provided at the point of wounding. An analysis of MERT timelines in Afghanistan over a 13-month period from May 2006 to June 2007 showed that the median time from injury to handover at the field hospital emergency department for all UK military casualties requiring emergency care and life-saving surgery was one hour 39 minutes.

On arrival at the field hospital, the clinical condition of the casualty will be assessed by the surgical team, and a decision made as to the most appropriate course of action. This could include provision of immediate surgery in the field hospital; aeromedical evacuation casualty to the UK following stabilisation of their condition; or transfer to another coalition field hospital facility.

In Iraq, the nearest specialist neurosurgical facilities are available at the US medical facilities at the Balad airbase. If it is assessed that this is the most appropriate course of action, UK casualties may be transferred there from the UK field hospital at Basrah. The average transfer time to Balad is one hour 20 minutes by fixed-wing aircraft or three hours by helicopter.

In Afghanistan, neurosurgical facilities are currently available in the UK role 2 (enhanced) field hospital at Camp Bastion, consisting of one neurosurgeon, one anaesthetist and two intensive treatment unit nurses.

For both operational theatres, once the condition of the patient has been stabilised, they will be airlifted back to the UK.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capability there is for direct communication between military medical units and field hospitals in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [168892]

**Derek Twigg:** In Iraq, direct voice communication is available between all fixed medical treatment facilities (MTFs) and the UK's role 2 (enhanced) field hospital, located at the contingency operating base, Basrah. Electronic text communication is also available through MOD's defence information infrastructure (DII).

In Afghanistan, all MTFs have direct voice communications with the role 2 (enhanced) field hospital at Camp Bastion (the UK military base in Helmand Province) through either fixed or satellite communication systems. Electronic text communications facilities are available at principal operating bases.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports his Department has produced since 2003 on the effects combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have had on equipment readiness; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each report. [171895]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** With regard to Iraq, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 480W. With regard to Afghanistan, the Directorate of Operational Capability has to date produced two volumes of its Lessons Report on Operation Herrick. I am withholding these reports as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

## Kuwait: Armed Forces

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops are based at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. [173731]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are currently eight UK personnel based in Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. One liaison officer is stationed with the headquarters at the Coalition Forces Land Component Command, with the remaining seven staff located at either the operational stand-down facility or the local resources section. These figures do not include those temporarily deployed in connection with roulements or other temporary support activities.

## Military Bases: Security

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many breaches of security were reported at his Department's bases and headquarters in each of the last five years; how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* prosecutions resulted; and if he will make a statement. [165653]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** This information will take time to be collated as the data will have to be obtained from different areas of the Department. I will write to the hon. Member when the information has been compiled and place a copy of my reply in the Library of the House.

*Substantive answer from Mr. Bob Ainsworth to Nick Harvey:*

I undertook to write to you in response to your Parliamentary Question on 21 November 2007, (Official Report, column 899W) about the number of breaches of security at MOD establishments for the last five years and the resulting arrests and prosecutions.

I have taken your question as relating to reported physical incursions onto the Defence estate in the UK. The figures in the table below therefore cover a range of sites from the main Departmental and Service establishments to storage and maintenance depots. An incursion can involve an individual or a group of individuals and can arise from a breach of the security fence, trespass on MOD property, unauthorised entry and infiltration onto a site and will typically include protester, criminal and vandal activity.

| | *Incursions* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 23 |
| 2003-04 | 29 |
| 2004-05 | 34 |
| 2005-06 | 47 |
| 2006-07 | 37 |
| 2007 | 31 |

Figures on arrests and prosecutions relate to "Aggravated Trespass" and "Criminal Trespass" are detailed in the following table. The great majority of the arrests related to anti-nuclear and anti-Iraq war protests, 2003 being the end of a period of several years of a high level of protest activity. Information on arrests and prosecutions dealt with by local constabularies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | *Arrests* | *Prosecutions* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 96 | 36 |
| 2004 | 8 | 2 |
| 2005 | 9 | 1 |
| 2006 | 12 | 10 |
| 2007[1] | 14 | 12 |

[1] Until 22 November

The degree of protection required at MOD sites will vary from site to site and area to area according to the threat, location and the nature of the establishment and it would therefore be inappropriate to give all establishments equal protection. Security measures are informed by threat assessments, derived from available intelligence. They involve risk management decisions, taking into account the effectiveness and proportionality of available countermeasures. We have to accept that guaranteed security against all forms of incursion is not achievable. It would not, for instance, be realistic to attempt to secure the outer perimeters of any MOD site to a level that would guarantee that it could never be penetrated, or to exclude the possibility of material damage in a non-sensitive area. We rely on defence in depth, with priority being given to the protection of life and those assets critical to the delivery of defence capability.

I can assure you that we continue to strive to adapt and improve the security measures already in place so that they meet the evolving threat. As part of this continuous review of security 13 MOD sites and three MOD licensed nuclear sites were designated for protection by a new offence of criminal trespass, under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 on 1 April 2006. The number of incursions at these sites has reduced significantly, and the number of prosecutions has increased as a result of this added protection.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

### Military Equipment: Procurement

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what circumstances his Department does not give any indication to suppliers of the amount it is willing to spend on a procurement programme when issuing invitations to tender. [172559]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** It is not normal departmental practice to provide programme budget details when issuing invitations to tender. However, the Defence Contracts Bulletin, which is issued in advance of tendering activity, routinely includes value banding information to indicate the approximate value of individual requirements to be advertised as a guide to suppliers who may be considering whether to respond.

### Royal Military Academy: Army Benevolent Fund

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department charged the Army Benevolent Fund for hosting its Music on Fire event at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in September 2006. [171350]

**Derek Twigg:** Each application for the use of Ministry of Defence land for fund raising or other purposes is considered on its individual merits and an appropriate system of charges is applied. A charge of £7,041.01 was raised against the Army Benevolent Fund for the use of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, for the Music on Fire event held in September 2006. However, using Treasury Government Accounting Rules this figure represents an abated amount of the full costs that could have been charged.

### United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the members of the team conducting the review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office are. [171663]

**Derek Twigg:** The UK Hydrographic Office structural and ownership options study team was led by officials from the MOD Directorate of Business Delivery, supported by staff on loan from the UK Hydrographic Office, the Shareholder Executive and with external assistance from consultants KPMG.

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions the MOD review team has met the UK Hydrographic Office. [172830]

**Derek Twigg:** The study team met frequently with the UK Hydrographic Office both formally and informally over the 10-month period when the review took place.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who decided the terms of reference of his Department's review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office; and whether these terms of reference were delivered to private sector stakeholders when they were published. [169450]

**Derek Twigg:** The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) is a Trading Fund within the Ministry of Defence. Departments routinely carry out reviews of Trading Funds from time to time as part of the Ownership role. In February 2007, I announced that we would carry out a review of the structural and ownership options for the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO). This is due to report at the end of the year.

I decided the terms of reference (TORs) for the UKHO study. A draft of the TORs was sent to the trades unions representing UKHO employees, giving them the opportunity to provide comments.

During the course of the study, the study team met with a number of private sector stakeholders, none of whom requested to see a copy of the TORs.

### War Pensions

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications under the *(a)* War Pensions Scheme and *(b)* Armed Forces Compensation Scheme have been turned down because of failure to comply with the burden of proof in each financial year since 2002-03. [162660]

**Derek Twigg:** Information is not held centrally as to the particular reason for rejection of a claim under each scheme and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. No claim under either the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) or the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) will fail where the evidence shows that service is the predominant cause of the injury or illness in question.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### School Discipline

13. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what new powers he plans to give teachers to improve discipline in classrooms. [174117]

**Jim Knight:** The Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives school staff clear statutory powers to impose disciplinary penalties on pupils for misbehaviour on and off school premises. This legislation complements head teachers' right to exclude and gives schools the powers they need to maintain discipline. We shall continue to give heads, teachers and other school staff our full support in using these powers.

### Home Start

14. **Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with Chorley and South Ribble Home Start on assistance for families with young children; and if he will make a statement. [174118]

**Kevin Brennan:** My Department has supported Home-Start UK since 2001; and currently provides an annual strategic grant of £2.73 million. The grant is to support the infrastructure of Home-Start UK across England. The grant covers Home-Start UK's training and support to its local home visiting services, such as the one in Chorley and South Ribble. Services in local areas are commissioned and funded at the local level, where the need has been identified.

### Academy: Colchester

15. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the programme to establish an academy in Colchester constituency. [174119]

**Jim Knight:** The Essex local authority is currently consulting on proposals to close Alderman Blaxhill school and to establish an academy on the site of the Thomas Lord Audley school. Officials from my Department have been consulted as the authority has drawn up its proposals. We believe that this may be the most appropriate way forward because we recognise that there is a need to raise standards in the area. But ultimately, the decision to close this school and to implement the proposals are matters for the local authority.

### Special Educational Needs

16. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to help local authorities assess children with special educational needs more accurately and rapidly. [174120]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice gives statutory guidance to local authorities on assessing children's SEN and sets out the timescale for doing so. We are including an indicator in the National Indicator Set on what percentage of statements local authorities finalise within the 26 week time limit. The national strategies' SEN adviser team provides support and challenge to authorities in meeting their duties in this area.

### Sports Facilities

17. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the merits of using outdoor recreational centres to meet the requirement for five hours of sport per pupil per week. [174121]

**Kevin Brennan:** We are working with the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England to develop plans on what activities could be available locally and I would see outdoor recreation centres having an important role to play in supporting the five hours of sport for all children and young people offer.

### International Comparisons

18. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information he holds on the performance of English schools against international benchmarks; and if he will make a statement. [174122]

20. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what recent research he has evaluated on educational standards in English schools against international benchmarks. [174124]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper).

### Science Curriculum

19. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consult on changes to the science curriculum. [174123]

**Jim Knight:** The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has consulted widely on the key stage 3 science curriculum that will be introduced into schools for first teaching from September 2008.

### Funding

21. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure equity of funding between pupils in England. [174125]

**Kevin Brennan:** The school funding arrangements recognise that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are likely to need extra support if they are to have an equal chance to succeed, and that some schools cost more to run than others. An equitable system balances the different needs of each area with basic funding per pupil. The Department will launch a major review of the distribution of core school funding in January to ensure that we have the right balance for the next decade.

### Positive Activities

22. **Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government are taking to promote positive activities for young people. [174126]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a new duty on local authorities to publicise accurate information about positive activities. The Government have already provided £9 million to local authorities to help them do this.

The Government announced in 'Aiming High for young people', published July 2007, continued funding to help local authorities publicise opportunities to young people over the next three years and committed to publish further guidance in this area to support local authorities.

### Classical Music, Ballet and Opera

23. **Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that each child in primary and secondary education attends at least one performance each of classical music, ballet and opera. [174127]

**Kevin Brennan:** As we stated in the Children's Plan, we will work towards a position where no matter where they live, or what their background, all children and young people are able to get involved in top quality cultural opportunities in and out of school. We intend to run a series of pilots looking at different approaches in different parts of the country, and to establish a Youth Culture Trust to run these and promote cultural activities more widely. Further details will be announced in the new year.

### International Baccalaureate

**Dr. Palmer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the use of the International Baccalaureate; and if he will make a statement. [174109]

**Jim Knight:** Every young person should be able to choose rigorous, challenging qualifications that are suited to their interests and enable them to progress. This is the principle that underpins our 14 to 19 reforms. It is for schools and colleges to decide which qualifications to offer their students from the range which are approved for public funding, including the International Baccalaureate. We are currently funding start-up costs for 29 maintained institutions in areas where there is no IB provision at present.

### Academies: Manchester

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 919-20W, on academies: Manchester, how many of the *(a)* lead sponsors and *(b)* co sponsors of the seven academies in Manchester are publicly funded organisations; and if he will make a statement. [172133]

**Jim Knight:** The following Manchester Academy Programme sponsors and co-sponsors are public bodies; Manchester College of Arts and Technology, Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Trust, City College Manchester, the BBC and Manchester city council.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167216]

**Jim Knight:** The following lists the names of manufacturers supplying significant software that is used by the Department for Children, Schools and Families:

1E
ActiveState Software Inc
ActiveXperts Software BV
Acuity Risk Management LLP
Acuma Software Limited
Adobe Systems
Agresso Limited
Art Technology Group Inc
Aventail
BEA Systems Inc
Business Objects
CASE Technologies
Check Point Software Technologies Limited
Cisco Systems Inc
Citrix Systems Inc
Clearswift Limited
CommVault
CA
Dell Inc
Diskeeper Corporation
Double-Take Software
EMC Corporation
Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc
EVault
Ixia
INPHASE Software Limited
Intel Corporation Intercede Limited
Internet Security Systems Inc
JAM Software
JZero Solutions
Kainos Software Limited
Mantix Systems Limited
McAfee Inc
MEGA
Meridio
Microsoft Corporation
MidlandHR
Network Appliance Inc
PTM EDV-Systeme GmbH
QAS Limited
QLogic Corporation
Qube Global Software
Quest Software Inc
RealVNC Limited
Research In Motion Limited
RSA Security Inc
SafeNet Inc
Semio
Sherpa Software
Softerra Limited
Sophos Plc
Source Code Technology Holdings Inc
SPSS Inc
Sun Microsystems Inc
Symantec Corporation
TANDBERG
Telelogic AB
Trend Micro
VMWare Inc
Websense Inc
WinZip International LLC

### Head Teachers: Pay

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who the highest paid head teacher in a maintained school in England was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [172087]

**Jim Knight:** Some information on the salary of individual teachers is held by the Department for pensions administration purposes. It is not possible however to verify that any particular salary found in these data is the highest paid to a head teacher and to identify the individual concerned.

### Higher Education: Academies

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which universities have applied to establish academy schools. [172272]

**Jim Knight:** There are currently 16 universities which are sponsoring an Academy or at various stages of developing formal academy proposals. These are listed as follows. The Department is also in early discussions with a number of other universities about developing academy proposals. The number of universities which are sponsoring academies is steadily increasing and a number of others are engaged in this initiative through partnership arrangements.

*Universities developing formal proposals*

Brunel University

Birmingham City University (formerly University of Central England UCE)

Coventry University

Liverpool Hope University

London City University

Oxford Brookes University

Queen Mary College

Sheffield Hallam University

University of Bristol

University of Chester

University College London

University of Lincoln

University of Liverpool

University of Manchester

University of Nottingham

University of West of England

### Literacy: Standards

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on international comparisons of literacy at age 11 years. [169791]

**Jim Knight:** The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2006 was published on 28 November 2007. PIRLS is a comparative study of the reading attainment of 10-year-olds, run by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). The average age of pupils tested ranged from 9.7 years in Italy to 11.9 in Morocco. The average age of pupils tested in England was 10.3 years (Year 5 equivalent).

The study is conducted in England by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), under contract to the Department for Children, Schools and Families. NFER published the national report for England on their website www.nfer.ac.uk/pirls on 28 November 2007. Print versions of the report are being prepared and hard copies will be made available in both Houses of Parliament.

The main conclusions from the national report for England were:

On average, pupils in England achieved significantly above the international mean in PIRLS 2006 but the mean score for England has fallen since 2001.

Children in England read for pleasure less often than their peers in other countries. There is a strong link between the amount of reading for pleasure and their achievement in PIRLS tests.

37 per cent. of 10-year-olds in England play computer games for more than three hours a day. This is one of the highest proportions internationally and there is a link between high use of computer games and lower attainment in PIRLS.

75 per cent. have access to desk or quiet space to study at home—a much lower number than Western Europe.

Of the five countries testing in English, Singapore scored significantly higher than the others. There was no significant difference between the scores of England and the United States, which both scored significantly higher than New Zealand, Scotland, and Trinidad and Tobago.

In almost all countries, including England, girls achieved significantly higher than boys overall.

I have also recently commissioned a benchmarking study that will compare our curriculum to that of other countries. This independent review will focus on literacy, mathematics and science and cover the seven-11 age range. It will look at curriculum content, learning styles and educational outcomes and will report in 2008.

### Official Engagements

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many official engagements he has rescheduled with less than *(a)* one day's, *(b)* two days', *(c)* one week's and *(d)* two weeks' notice since taking up his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [172177]

**Ed Balls** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The information is not held. Conflicting diary pressures mean that it is sometimes necessary to reschedule official engagements at short notice but I endeavour to keep this to a minimum.

### Primary Education: Literacy

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment is of literacy standards in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [174104]

**Jim Knight:** Standards of literacy in our primary schools are at their highest levels ever. 100,000 more pupils a year are reaching the expected standard for their age compared with 1997.

The renewed primary literacy strategy, with a stronger emphasis on phonics, and the national roll-out of Every Child a Reader will help to ensure that we maintain and extend the improvements we have already achieved.

### Pupils: Education

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students aged 16 years in 2006-07 who were offered a place in continuing education under the September guarantee took up that place; and how many were still in education after *(a)* six months and *(b)* one year. [169166]

**Jim Knight:** Information is not available in the format requested.

DCSF publishes estimates of the number of young people of academic age 16, 17 and 18 who are in education and training at the end of each calendar year. An estimate of the number of young people who were aged 16 on 31 August 2007, and who remained in education and training at the end of 2007, is due to be published in June 2008. This is the first year group to be entitled to an offer of post-16 learning under the September guarantee.

The latest information available on the participation of young people at age 17 relates to the cohort that would have reached the statutory school leaving age in summer 2005, but the figures will be affected by subsequent increases in the size of the cohort. At the end of 2005, 582,000 16-year-olds were in education and training at the end of that year, representing 88.7 per cent. of the cohort. At the end of 2006, there were 538,000 17-year-olds in education and training, representing 81.5 per cent. of the cohort.

### School Leaving

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the duty on people aged 16 to 18 years to be in education and training under the Education and Skills Bill if enacted will apply to those who are *(a)* in prison, *(b)* in the armed forces, *(c)* parents, *(d)* in treatment for drug dependency, *(e)* severely disabled, *(f)* caring for a relative and *(g)* preparing to be professional sportsmen or women; and if he will make a statement. [171928]

**Jim Knight:** The intention of the policy to raise the participation age is that all 16 and 17-year-olds resident in England will be required to participate in some form of education or training. Ensuring that all young people have the support they need to overcome barriers to learning, stay in their chosen route and succeed in it is one of the fundamental building blocks for making this policy a success. This includes having appropriate support for young people with special educational needs; having the right level of financial support in place; and being able to provide advice, help and support with specific problems or when things go wrong. And where there are significant barriers to young people's engagement, such as homelessness or drug or alcohol problems, support services will focus on overcoming these first and taking steps towards re-engagement in education and training. No young person will enter the enforcement system if they have a reasonable justification for why they are not participating in learning and they are taking the right steps for them towards participation. The armed forces provide opportunities to continue with constructive training and education for all recruits from every level of ability and achievement. The new duty to participate will apply for young people in custody. Education and training for young people in custody is currently provided through a mix of arrangements, including through the LSC and contracted learning providers. Young people preparing to be professional sportsmen and sportswomen will also be subject to the requirement.

### Secondary Education: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surplus places there have been in secondary schools in each local authority area for each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08. [173233]

**Jim Knight:** The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus school places through an annual survey. The most recent data available are for 2006. The 2007 surplus places data will be available in January 2008 on:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/fallingschoolrolls/context/stats/.

The number of surplus school places was not collected in 2002 to allow for a change in the method of assessing school capacity. Currently the number of school places is calculated using the net capacity method of assessment which was introduced in 2003. Prior to 2003 the capacity of a school was calculated using the MOE (more open enrolment) method.

The following table shows the number of surplus places in maintained secondary schools calculated by the net capacity method of assessment between 2003 and 2006 and the MOE method in 2001.

*Secondary surplus school places*

| | *2001* | | *2003* | | *2004* | | *2005* | | *2006* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 467 | 4 | 604 | 0 | 614 | 5 | 458 | 4 | 374 | 3 |
| Barnet | 639 | 3 | 960 | 4 | 1,310 | 6 | 1,408 | 7 | 1,108 | 6 |
| Barnsley | 1,223 | 9 | 805 | 6 | 658 | 5 | 1,016 | 7 | 882 | 6 |
| Bath and NE Somerset | 721 | 6 | 843 | 6 | 811 | 6 | 783 | 6 | 943 | 7 |
| Bedfordshire | 4,121 | 10 | 3,060 | 8 | 2,760 | 7 | 2,643 | 7 | 2,866 | 7 |
| Bexley | 2,195 | 11 | 812 | 4 | 732 | 4 | 676 | 4 | 1,543 | 8 |
| Birmingham | 4,195 | 6 | 2,998 | 4 | 2,570 | 4 | 2,681 | 4 | 2,747 | 4 |

*Secondary surplus school places*

| | *2001* | | *2003* | | *2004* | | *2005* | | *2006* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* |
| Blackburn | 610 | 6 | 795 | 8 | 590 | 6 | 713 | 7 | 456 | 5 |
| Blackpool | 286 | 4 | 335 | 4 | 415 | 5 | 368 | 4 | 419 | 5 |
| Bolton | 487 | 3 | 373 | 2 | 386 | 2 | 472 | 2 | 523 | 3 |
| Bournemouth | 1,026 | 10 | 490 | 5 | 480 | 5 | 590 | 6 | 597 | 6 |
| Bracknell Forest | 801 | 12 | 895 | 13 | 828 | 12 | 845 | 12 | 782 | 11 |
| Bradford | 2,775 | 8 | 2,992 | 8 | 2,185 | 6 | 2,903 | 8 | 2,681 | 7 |
| Brent | 1,317 | 9 | 1,185 | 7 | 1,677 | 10 | 1,513 | 9 | 1,234 | 7 |
| Brighton and Hove | 1,167 | 9 | 889 | 7 | 1,091 | 8 | 1,210 | 9 | 611 | 5 |
| Bristol | 1,568 | 8 | 2,039 | 11 | 2,121 | 12 | 1,817 | 10 | 2,245 | 13 |
| Bromley | 442 | 2 | 480 | 2 | 454 | 2 | 841 | 4 | 989 | 4 |
| Buckinghamshire | 901 | 3 | 1,257 | 4 | 1,184 | 3 | 1,042 | 3 | 1,070 | 3 |
| Bury | 220 | 2 | 253 | 2 | 281 | 2 | 228 | 2 | 435 | 4 |
| Calderdale | 789 | 5 | 497 | 3 | 424 | 3 | 550 | 4 | 877 | 5 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,364 | 4 | 3,236 | 9 | 2,604 | 7 | 2,638 | 7 | 2,755 | 8 |
| Camden | 909 | 8 | 84 | 1 | 99 | 1 | 284 | 3 | 155 | 2 |
| Cheshire | 3,149 | 7 | 2,837 | 6 | 2,886 | 6 | 2,748 | 6 | 3,272 | 7 |
| Cornwall | 200 | 1 | 1,376 | 4 | 1,578 | 5 | 1,691 | 5 | 1,964 | 6 |
| Corporation of London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Coventry | 1,645 | 7 | 1,542 | 7 | 1,627 | 6 | 1,761 | 8 | 1,623 | 7 |
| Croydon | 1,277 | 7 | 1,923 | 10 | 1,993 | 10 | 2,679 | 10 | 2,277 | 11 |
| Cumbria | 4,016 | 11 | 4,207 | 11 | 2,458 | 7 | 2,506 | 7 | 2,485 | 7 |
| Darlington | 421 | 7 | 548 | 8 | 427 | 6 | 493 | 7 | 412 | 6 |
| Derby | 2,158 | 13 | 755 | 5 | 799 | 5 | 854 | 5 | 843 | 5 |
| Derbyshire | 3,918 | 8 | 3,117 | 6 | 2,879 | 6 | 2,827 | 6 | 2,510 | 5 |
| Devon | 1,519 | 4 | 1,523 | 4 | 1,437 | 3 | 2,314 | 5 | 1,732 | 4 |
| Doncaster | 1,205 | 5 | 1,712 | 7 | 1,680 | 7 | 1,739 | 7 | 1,956 | 9 |
| Dorset | 2,248 | 7 | 1,731 | 5 | 1,808 | 6 | 1,633 | 5 | 3,067 | 9 |
| Dudley | 724 | 7 | 595 | 3 | 544 | 3 | 537 | 3 | 711 | 3 |
| Durham | 2,916 | 8 | 4,079 | 11 | 3,450 | 10 | 3,779 | 11 | 3,973 | 11 |
| Ealing | 242 | 2 | 666 | 4 | 405 | 3 | 476 | 3 | 504 | 3 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 1,026 | 5 | 1,011 | 4 | 1,265 | 5 | 1,261 | 5 | 1,303 | 5 |
| East Sussex | 1,036 | 4 | 1,670 | 6 | 1,759 | 6 | 2,085 | 7 | 1,891 | 6 |
| Enfield | 2,873 | 12 | 2,326 | 10 | 887 | 4 | 578 | 3 | 493 | 2 |
| Essex | 6,616 | 7 | 6,003 | 6 | 5,331 | 6 | 5,403 | 6 | 6,125 | 6 |
| Gateshead | 551 | 5 | 972 | 8 | 1,051 | 8 | 1,120 | 9 | 1,079 | 8 |
| Gloucestershire | 2,043 | 5 | 2,737 | 6 | 2,502 | 6 | 2,423 | 6 | 2,381 | 6 |
| Greenwich | 1,323 | 9 | 1,905 | 12 | 1,461 | 9 | 1,481 | 9 | 1,552 | 10 |
| Hackney | 858 | 10 | 931 | 11 | 501 | 6 | 530 | 7 | 1,108 | 14 |
| Halton | 1,162 | 12 | 383 | 4 | 494 | 6 | 635 | 7 | 710 | 8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 488 | 7 | 1,369 | 18 | 1,305 | 16 | 1,200 | 16 | 1,363 | 18 |
| Hampshire | 5,200 | 7 | 5,001 | 7 | 5,145 | 7 | 5,288 | 7 | 5,271 | 7 |
| Haringey | 1,471 | 11 | 698 | 6 | 1,062 | 9 | 884 | 7 | 303 | 3 |
| Harrow | 851 | 9 | 283 | 3 | 293 | 3 | 300 | 3 | 283 | 3 |
| Hartlepool | 709 | 10 | 629 | 9 | 697 | 9 | 249 | 4 | 322 | 5 |
| Havering | 931 | 6 | 974 | 6 | 771 | 5 | 832 | 5 | 818 | 5 |
| Herefordshire | 1,085 | 10 | 495 | 5 | 405 | 4 | 398 | 4 | 520 | 5 |
| Hertfordshire | 9,632 | 12 | 9,832 | 11 | 9,419 | 11 | 5,948 | 7 | 7,554 | 9 |
| Hillingdon | 1,188 | 7 | 1,133 | 6 | 910 | 5 | 650 | 4 | 791 | 5 |
| Hounslow | 545 | 3 | 441 | 3 | 390 | 2 | 430 | 3 | 846 | 5 |
| Isle of Scilly | 36 | 23 | 1,543 | 11 | 1,497 | 11 | 1,397 | 10 | 1,564 | 11 |
| Isle of Wight | 775 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Islington | 793 | 10 | 589 | 7 | 559 | 7 | 770 | 9 | 703 | 8 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 583 | 14 | 202 | 5 | 221 | 6 | 215 | 6 | 198 | 5 |
| Kent | 7,623 | 8 | 6,915 | 7 | 7,027 | 7 | 7,217 | 7 | 7,127 | 7 |
| Kingston-upon-Hull | 1,915 | 11 | 1,070 | 6 | 942 | 6 | 1,568 | 9 | 1,451 | 8 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 631 | 7 | 619 | 7 | 543 | 6 | 442 | 5 | 518 | 5 |
| Kirklees | 2,279 | 8 | 2,989 | 10 | 2,698 | 9 | 2,691 | 9 | 2,428 | 8 |

*Secondary surplus school places*

| | 2001 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Knowsley | 1,395 | 12 | 1,768 | 15 | 1,848 | 15 | 1,761 | 15 | 2,105 | 18 |
| Lambeth | 1,656 | 19 | 762 | 10 | 556 | 7 | 307 | 4 | 293 | 4 |
| Lancashire | 5,773 | 7 | 4,816 | 6 | 4,664 | 6 | 5,106 | 6 | 5,893 | 7 |
| Leeds | 3,545 | 7 | 3,647 | 7 | 3,861 | 8 | 2,541 | 5 | 2,535 | 5 |
| Leicester | 943 | 5 | 744 | 4 | 818 | 4 | 1,133 | 6 | 1,212 | 6 |
| Leicestershire | 3,157 | 7 | 1,816 | 4 | 1,900 | 4 | 1,976 | 4 | 2,349 | 5 |
| Lewisham | 1,826 | 14 | 711 | 6 | 924 | 7 | 1,244 | 11 | 1,178 | 10 |
| Lincolnshire | 4,197 | 9 | 3,533 | 7 | 2,781 | 6 | 2,634 | 5 | 2,617 | 5 |
| Liverpool | 3,112 | 9 | 2,286 | 6 | 2,839 | 8 | 3,161 | 9 | 3,516 | 10 |
| Luton | 426 | 4 | 344 | 3 | 400 | 3 | 652 | 5 | 728 | 6 |
| Manchester | 1,943 | 8 | 1,614 | 6 | 1,654 | 7 | 1,586 | 6 | 1,893 | 8 |
| Medway | 2,928 | 13 | 1,649 | 8 | 1,471 | 7 | 1,515 | 7 | 1,938 | 9 |
| Merton | 1,312 | 15 | 870 | 9 | 1,037 | 11 | 1,356 | 14 | 1,683 | 17 |
| Middlesbrough | 787 | 8 | 797 | 10 | 440 | 7 | 531 | 9 | 601 | 10 |
| Milton Keynes | 1,728 | 13 | 1,542 | 11 | 1,701 | 12 | 1,425 | 10 | 1,731 | 11 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 2,004 | 10 | 1,427 | 7 | 1,800 | 9 | 1,748 | 9 | 1,422 | 8 |
| Newham | 1,323 | 7 | 1,326 | 7 | 1,419 | 7 | 1,560 | 8 | 1,987 | 10 |
| Norfolk | 3,020 | 7 | 2,939 | 6 | 3,723 | 8 | 3,811 | 8 | 3,908 | 8 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 838 | 7 | 931 | 7 | 1,074 | 8 | 1,502 | 12 | 1,775 | 14 |
| North Lincolnshire | 1,027 | 9 | 1,167 | 10 | 1,093 | 9 | 1,126 | 9 | 989 | 8 |
| North Somerset | 691 | 5 | 250 | 2 | 213 | 2 | 247 | 2 | 263 | 2 |
| North Tyneside | 1,770 | 12 | 826 | 6 | 803 | 6 | 862 | 6 | 1,075 | 7 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,675 | 4 | 3,417 | 8 | 3,105 | 7 | 2,984 | 7 | 3,259 | 7 |
| Northamptonshire | 3,501 | 7 | 4,598 | 8 | 5,817 | 11 | 2,173 | 5 | 2,239 | 5 |
| Northumberland | 3,254 | 10 | 2,465 | 8 | 2,690 | 8 | 2,270 | 7 | 2,544 | 8 |
| Nottinghamshire | 7,984 | 13 | 1,540 | 10 | 1,513 | 10 | 1,625 | 11 | 2,222 | 14 |
| Nottingham | 3,529 | 21 | 3,670 | 7 | 3,335 | 6 | 3,702 | 6 | 4,210 | 7 |
| Oldham | 1,134 | 7 | 888 | 5 | 732 | 4 | 760 | 5 | 1,046 | 6 |
| Oxfordshire | 4,749 | 11 | 2,341 | 6 | 3,878 | 9 | 4,429 | 10 | 4,529 | 11 |
| Peterborough | 1,238 | 9 | 1,898 | 13 | 2,037 | 14 | 1,958 | 13 | 2,210 | 14 |
| Plymouth | 795 | 4 | 863 | 5 | 865 | 5 | 455 | 2 | 588 | 17 |
| Poole | 676 | 8 | 205 | 2 | 160 | 2 | 201 | 2 | 244 | 3 |
| Portsmouth | 179 | 2 | 802 | 7 | 857 | 8 | 1,036 | 10 | 1,099 | 10 |
| Reading | 1,235 | 16 | 854 | 12 | 898 | 13 | 1,029 | 15 | 1,065 | 15 |
| Redbridge | 649 | 3 | 1,245 | 6 | 1,164 | 6 | 796 | 4 | 755 | 4 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 1,430 | 12 | 1,204 | 11 | 1,016 | 9 | 586 | 6 | 509 | 5 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 569 | 7 | 359 | 5 | 620 | 8 | 663 | 8 | 780 | 10 |
| Rochdale | 1,434 | 9 | 1,224 | 8 | 1,198 | 8 | 1,352 | 9 | 1,415 | 9 |
| Rotherham | 1,383 | 7 | 1,312 | 6 | 1,085 | 5 | 1,098 | 5 | 1,102 | 5 |
| Rutland | 234 | 10 | 345 | 13 | 311 | 12 | 317 | 12 | 268 | 10 |
| Salford | 2,234 | 15 | 2,154 | 15 | 1,484 | 11 | 1,726 | 12 | 1,571 | 12 |
| Sandwell | 2,551 | 12 | 1,917 | 9 | 1,677 | 8 | 1,198 | 6 | 1,548 | 7 |
| Sefton | 1,280 | 6 | 874 | 4 | 1,037 | 5 | 1,283 | 6 | 1,697 | 8 |
| Sheffield | 1,102 | 4 | 700 | 2 | 595 | 2 | 683 | 2 | 815 | 3 |
| Shropshire | 588 | 3 | 573 | 3 | 626 | 3 | 814 | 4 | 959 | 5 |
| Slough | 333 | 4 | 309 | 4 | 158 | 2 | 312 | 4 | 366 | 4 |
| Solihull | 277 | 2 | 164 | 1 | 232 | 1 | 652 | 4 | 778 | 5 |
| Somerset | 2,864 | 9 | 2,550 | 7 | 1,107 | 3 | 1,124 | 3 | 970 | 3 |
| South Gloucestershire | 1,285 | 7 | 1,462 | 8 | 1,466 | 8 | 2,092 | 11 | 2,795 | 14 |
| South Tyneside | 1,161 | 10 | 1,461 | 12 | 1,526 | 13 | 1,128 | 10 | 1,298 | 12 |
| Southampton | 658 | 5 | 1,478 | 11 | 1,376 | 10 | 1,625 | 12 | 2,347 | 17 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 695 | 6 | 638 | 5 | 847 | 6 | 770 | 6 | 611 | 5 |
| Southwark | 1,148 | 11 | 686 | 6 | 328 | 3 | 175 | 2 | 205 | 2 |
| St. Helens | 1,000 | 8 | 298 | 2 | 231 | 2 | 317 | 3 | 406 | 3 |
| Staffordshire | 899 | 2 | 2,602 | 4 | 1,916 | 3 | 2,682 | 4 | 2,978 | 5 |
| Stockport | 1,171 | 7 | 794 | 5 | 754 | 4 | 1,081 | 6 | 876 | 5 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 668 | 5 | 839 | 6 | 1,190 | 9 | 1,253 | 9 | 1,063 | 8 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 934 | 6 | 487 | 3 | 546 | 4 | 766 | 5 | 1,072 | 7 |

*Secondary surplus school places*

| | *2001* | | *2003* | | *2004* | | *2005* | | *2006* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* |
| Suffolk | 4,610 | 8 | 4,957 | 8 | 4,746 | 8 | 5,504 | 9 | 6,076 | 10 |
| Sunderland | 983 | 5 | 2,146 | 10 | 2,384 | 11 | 2,933 | 13 | 3,150 | 14 |
| Surrey | 3,737 | 7 | 3,706 | 6 | 2,347 | 4 | 3,559 | 6 | 3,566 | 6 |
| Sutton | 670 | 5 | 598 | 4 | 521 | 3 | 479 | 3 | 782 | 5 |
| Swindon | 352 | 3 | 877 | 7 | 934 | 8 | 1,133 | 9 | 963 | 8 |
| Tameside | 1,064 | 7 | 808 | 5 | 654 | 4 | 632 | 4 | 850 | 5 |
| Telford | 789 | 8 | 854 | 8 | 775 | 7 | 973 | 9 | 1,096 | 10 |
| Thurrock | 957 | 11 | 760 | 9 | 500 | 6 | 367 | 4 | 413 | 5 |
| Torbay | 238 | 3 | 145 | 2 | 891 | 9 | 1,024 | 10 | 1,145 | 11 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,028 | 7 | 1,424 | 9 | 1,240 | 8 | 1,407 | 9 | 907 | 6 |
| Trafford | 1,053 | 6 | 993 | 6 | 855 | 5 | 1,022 | 6 | 1,410 | 8 |
| Wakefield | 1,096 | 5 | 614 | 3 | 584 | 3 | 674 | 3 | 837 | 4 |
| Walsall | 1,504 | 7 | 998 | 4 | 1,120 | 5 | 1,134 | 5 | 1,196 | 5 |
| Waltham Forest | 884 | 7 | 980 | 7 | 889 | 6 | 782 | 5 | 997 | 7 |
| Wandsworth | 465 | 5 | 679 | 6 | 758 | 7 | 948 | 9 | 980 | 9 |
| Warrington | 492 | 4 | 395 | 3 | 401 | 3 | 564 | 4 | 655 | 5 |
| Warwickshire | 2,712 | 8 | 2,652 | 7 | 2,495 | 7 | 2,614 | 7 | 2,790 | 8 |
| West Berkshire | 331 | 3 | 330 | 3 | 315 | 3 | 446 | 4 | 432 | 3 |
| West Sussex | 4,374 | 9 | 3,804 | 8 | 3,369 | 7 | 4,664 | 9 | 3,858 | 8 |
| Westminster | 697 | 9 | 840 | 9 | 610 | 7 | 511 | 6 | 625 | 7 |
| Wigan | 1,161 | 6 | 1,441 | 7 | 1,022 | 5 | 1,384 | 6 | 1,761 | 8 |
| Wiltshire | 2,643 | 9 | 3,974 | 12 | 3,919 | 12 | 4,115 | 12 | 3,167 | 10 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 314 | 3 | 524 | 5 | 417 | 4 | 493 | 5 | 759 | 7 |
| Wirral | 2,325 | 9 | 1,472 | 6 | 1,197 | 5 | 2,025 | 8 | 2,572 | 10 |
| Wokingham | 38 | 0 | 316 | 3 | 340 | 3 | .475 | 4 | 588 | 5 |
| Wolverhampton | 1,171 | 7 | 1,713 | 9 | 1,312 | 7 | 2,153 | 11 | 2,224 | 12 |
| Worcestershire | 4,285 | 12 | 2,589 | 6 | 2,618 | 6 | 2,635 | 6 | 3,044 | 7 |
| York | 779 | 11 | 608 | 6 | 539 | 5 | 508 | 5 | 815 | 7 |
| Total | 250,733 | 7 | 231,391 | 7 | 220,528 | 6 | 227,168 | 7 | 244,111 | 7 |

*Note:*
Number of places relate to position as at January
*Source:*
Surplus Places Survey

## Students: Loans

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students from Romford entering higher education have required loans from the Student Loans Company in each year since 1997. [168424]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

Available data are shown in the table.

*Borrowers taking out student loans from the London borough of Havering[1], academic year loan taken out*

| *Academic year* | *Borrowers[2]* |
|---|---|
| 1997/98 | 730 |
| 1998/99 | 1,560 |
| 1999/2000 | 1,750 |
| 2000/01 | 1,900 |
| 2001/02 | 2,060 |
| 2002/03 | 2,150 |
| 2003/04 | 2,270 |
| 2004/05 | 2,420 |
| 2005/06 | 2,620 |
| 2006/07[3] | 2,760 |

[1] Borrowers whose local authority was Havering at the time of their loan application. Includes new entrants and those continuing in higher education.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Includes fee loans from their introduction in 2006/07.
*Source:*
Student Loans Company.

This information is not available at constituency level.

## Young People: Antisocial Behaviour

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which youth provision under the Respect Action Plan *(a)* meets demand from and *(b)* affects levels of antisocial behaviour among young people. [173852]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Respect Action Plan set out measures to expand and develop constructive and purposeful activities for all young people including those who are disadvantaged and at risk of antisocial behaviour. Commitments set out in the Action Plan have been implemented including the establishment of Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds which have been made available to all local authorities in England since April 2006.

The Respect Action Plan was only one element of our response for young people. Aiming High set out a ten year strategy to ensure that positive activities are available for all young people.

The Youth Taskforce was created from the Respect Taskforce in October 2007 to build on the Respect programme and support local delivery of our vision for young people.

The Taskforce are currently developing analysis and proposals and will publish an Action Plan in spring 2008 giving more detail on the areas where it will work with local partners to deliver for young people.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Broadband: Scotland

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of people without access to broadband services in Scotland, broken down by constituency; and if he will make a statement. [172849]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department has not compiled such estimates.

The Scottish Executive's research on broadband reach in Scotland, published in December 2006, estimates that between 7,000 and 25,000 homes cannot access DSL bandwidths in excess of 512 kilobytes. These are scattered throughout Scotland, but where local conditions affect a number of premises in the same way, there is some evidence of "clustering", and the Scottish Executive are aware of around 50 such "clusters" (of 10 or more people).

### Coal-Fired Power Stations

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of new coal power stations on achievement of the target of 20 per cent. of energy from renewable sources by 2020. [174686]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government intend to hold a consultation next year on options for a UK Renewable Energy Strategy to deliver our share of the EU 2020 renewables target, and then publish the strategy in spring 2009.

Our assessment of the various factors which will influence the deployment of renewable energy generation will be included in the consultation document.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many proposed coal-burning power plants are under consideration for approval by his Department; what account his Department takes of likely levels of carbon dioxide emissions from such plants in the approval process; and what estimate he has made of the likely percentage of UK carbon dioxide emissions which will come from such plants in 2020. [174692]

**Malcolm Wicks:** One. The Environmental Impact Assessment which accompanies any such application includes an assessment of atmospheric emissions and this is taken into account before any decision is taken.

### Coal-Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of permanent new local jobs which would be created by the new coal power station at Kingsnorth. [174683]

**Malcolm Wicks:** E.ON currently employs over 160 staff with approximately another 90 on a contract basis at the existing Kingsnorth power station. E.ON estimates that a similar number of staff will be required for the proposed new coal-fired station.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what is the expected date for installation of carbon capture and storage at the proposed new coal power station at Kingsnorth. [174687]

**Malcolm Wicks:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has yet to make a decision on whether to grant consent to construct a new coal-fired station at Kingsnorth. It would therefore be wrong for me to indicate a timing for the installation of carbon capture plant as that could be seen as pre-empting his decision.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the likely level of carbon dioxide emissions from the proposed coal power plant at Kingsnorth; and of the likely proportion of UK carbon dioxide emissions which will come from the plant in 2020. [174688]

**Malcolm Wicks:** It is estimated by the developer that, working at maximum output, the proposed station would produce 8.06 megatonnes of $CO_2$, compared with 10.9 MTe $CO_2$ from the existing coal-fired station. I have made no estimate of the likely proportion of emissions in 2020, nor has the Secretary of State taken a decision on the planning application.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to order a public inquiry into the proposed new coal power station at Kingsnorth. [174689]

**Malcolm Wicks:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has yet to take a decision on the application, including whether to hold a public inquiry.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the existing plant at Kingsnorth will operate alongside the proposed new coal power station at Kingsnorth between 2012 and 2015. [174697]

**Malcolm Wicks:** No. The developer intends that the existing coal fired station will be decommissioned if the new station is consented to and built.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department made of alternative sources of energy which could be used in place of new coal build at Kingsnorth power station. [174698]

**Malcolm Wicks:** None. The energy sector is market led and companies decide what development applications to bring forward in the context of the Government's energy policy framework.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will order a public inquiry on the proposal for a new, unabated coal plant at Kingsnorth in Kent. [175426]

**Malcolm Wicks:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has yet to take a decision on the application, including whether to hold a public inquiry.

## Corporate Hospitality

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many dinners were provided for his Department's Ministers and officials by external solicitors in each of the last seven years. [170554]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The records of formal business meetings between solicitors and officials from the Department are not held centrally.

With respect to the coal health compensation schemes, we are not aware of any Ministers for whom dinners were provided. Officials have had formal business with solicitors conducted through normal business meetings. I understand that there were occasions when officials involved in such meetings had dinner with some solicitors. However, we do not have comprehensive records of those occasions.

## Electricity Generation: Finance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding his Department has allocated to electricity generation projects using *(a)* tidal power, *(b)* wave power, *(c)* wind, *(d)* biomass, *(e)* hydro power, *(f)* gas and *(g)* coal. [173264]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The information requested is as follows.

*Renewables*

Department expenditure on R and D on renewable energy technologies from 1996 is set out at table 1.

In addition, renewable electricity generation projects receive support under the Renewables Obligation (RO). However, this is not direct Government funding; instead, the RO places an obligation on licensed electricity suppliers to source a specific and annually increasing proportion of their sales from renewable sources.

The RO, along with exemption from the climate change levy, will be worth around £1 billion per year in support for the renewables industry by 2010.

*Coal*

The Government are launching a competition to support the first commercial-scale Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project using post-combustion capture on a coal-fired power station in the world.

Key objectives of the demonstration competition in the UK are to deliver a successful demonstration of the full chain of CCS technologies on a power plant at a commercial scale and to demonstrate technology that is relevant and transferable to key global markets,particularly in emerging economies.

Funding outlines for this project will be available in due course.

*Gas*

There is no Government funding allocated to electricity generation projects using gas.

*Table 1 DTI renewable energy R and D expenditure*

£

| | *1996-97* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bioenergy | 2,575,853 | 1,464,922 | 1,193,500 | 1,664,159 | 1,353,942 | 1,348,962 |
| Hydrogen | 141,884 | 56,950 | 79,965 | 137,731 | 60,269 | 129,626 |
| Solar/PV | 1,889,415 | 1,672,937 | 1,006,877 | 1,282,761 | 1,265,798 | 1,522,106 |
| Wave and tidal | 54,865 | 7,670 | 95,649 | 20,442 | 360,849 | 968,033 |
| Wind | 2,377,360 | 1,246,222 | 957,769 | 808,587 | 912,822 | 1,247,901 |

£

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bioenergy | 1,637,073 | 1,604,705 | 974,222 | 879,123 | 301,055 |
| Hydrogen | 200,391 | 85,244 | 33,045 | — | 8,088 |
| Solar/PV | 4,484,914 | 3,130,705 | 1,970,338 | 1,782,327 | 1,127,622 |
| Wave and tidal | 2,744,782 | 5,018,572 | 1,235,488 | 1,655,194 | 2,257,894 |
| Wind | 1,427,651 | 1,394,696 | 1,459,598 | 1,136,774 | 844,752 |

## Electricity Generation: Wastes

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of incinerating waste for the purpose of producing electricity; and if he will make a statement. [174567]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Energy White Paper recognised the energy and waste policy benefits of generating energy from waste that cannot be prevented, reused or recycled. Recovering energy from waste by incineration or other methods has benefits for security of fuel supply, with the biomass fraction of waste also being a renewable energy source.

According to the latest available statistics, in 2006 1,083 GWh of electricity were generated from the biodegradable fraction of municipal solid waste and a further 651 GWh from the non-biodegradable fraction most of which was of fossil fuel origin. These together accounted for 0.4 per cent. of the UK's electricity generation in 2006.

### Energy Supply

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what methodology his Department uses to calculate a cash equivalent in cost-benefit analyses for enhanced security of supply obtained from UK capital projects in energy generation. [174089]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Since the Government do not invest in energy generation projects, there is no reason for Government to undertake cost-benefit analysis for such projects. This is a matter for investors.

There is, however, discussion about the quantification and valuation of security of energy supply in chapter 3 of the joint Government-Ofgem Energy Markets Outlook. This is at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/energymarketsoutlook/security-supply/page41854.html.

More in-depth analysis is annexed at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file41822.pdf.

### Export Credit Guarantees: Sakhalin Island

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the environmental sustainability of the Sakhalin II project; what factors will be taken into account in the decision on whether to provide an export credits guarantee for the project; and if he will make a statement. [174131]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The ECGD has received submissions from a number of interested parties about the environmental impacts of the Sakhalin II project. These will be taken into account in accordance with the ECGD's published Case Impact Analysis Process:

www.ecgd.gov.uk

In considering support for the project the ECGD will apply its normal underwriting policy and its business principles. Relevant factors include financial, technical and environmental aspects of the project.

The ECGD has not yet completed its assessment. A note of decision will be published in due course.

### Franco-British Nuclear Forum

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what is the status of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum. [173174]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Franco-British Nuclear Forum was announced following the then Prime Minister's meeting with the then President of the French Republic in June 2006. The announcement said:

> "We have agreed to explore and further develop the opportunities of working together in the civil nuclear field. To that end we have agreed to establish a regular Franco-British Nuclear Forum, involving representatives from government, industry and technical experts. The Forum will provide a vehicle to discuss Franco-British nuclear cooperation, including research, skills, decommissioning and waste management".

The work of the forum is ongoing.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* cost to his Department of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum was in 2006-07. [173175]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The budget for the forum was met from the Department's existing budget for nuclear liabilities. The costs of the 29 March event held in London were £9,500 for conference facilities, lunch and translation and interpretation facilities, plus staff costs of approximately £14,000.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum have been held during 2007; and when he expects it next to meet. [173176]

**Malcolm Wicks:** One meeting of the Forum was held in March 2007 and, subject to the French Government's decision on dates, we expect the next meeting to take place in the spring. Working groups continue to meet regularly to progress their work individually.

### Fuels: Excise Duties

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has had any recent discussions with ministerial colleagues on freezing or reducing fuel duty to assist businesses. [172579]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Fuel duty rates are set by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The 2007 Budget announced fuel duty rates for the next three years—for environmental reasons, to fund public services and to provide certainty alongside the other tax reforms in this Budget.

The Government recognise businesses' concerns over fuel duty rates and continue to support the industry with other measures:

From 1 October 2007, the Reduced Pollution Certificate scheme has been extended so that hauliers buying a Euro V compliant vehicle up to 31 September 2009 can claim a discount of up to £500 a year on vehicle excise duty (VED).

VED rates for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) have been frozen since 2001 and the Government have now announced that they will continue to be frozen in 2008-09.

### Fuels: Prices

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on remote and island communities of the recent increases in road fuel prices. [172844]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department has not specifically undertaken an assessment of the impact of recent increases in road fuel prices on remote and island communities.

A range of factors such as crude oil prices, exchange rate, seasonal factors, level of stocks, refinery capacity, distribution costs and degree of retail competition determine retail petrol and diesel prices.

Prices in rural and remote areas, where distribution costs are higher, will typically be higher than the UK average.

### Furniture: Finance

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding was provided to the furniture industry by regional development agencies in each of the last three years. [167770]

**Mr. Timms:** The following table shows funding to the furniture industry from the RDA's single pot budgets (i.e. excluding Selective Finance for Investment in Enterprise).

| | | | *£000* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| AWM | 45 | 95 | 129 |
| EEDA | 0 | 14 | 26.37 |
| EMDA | [1]— | 18.74 | 18.74 |
| LDA | 0 | 0 | 192.27 |
| NWDA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ONE | 10 | 70 | 0 |
| SEEDA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SWRDA | 0 | 223.11 | 0 |
| YF | 497.8 | 233.15 | 270 |

[1] No figures available.

The following table shows funding awarded through Selective Finance for Investment in Enterprise (SFIE).

| | | | *£000* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| NWDA | 255 | 100 | 147 |
| SEEDA | — | — | 187.12 |
| SWRDA | .68 | — | — |

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department takes when Vendside refuses to transfer files to a solicitor as requested by a claimant for miner's compensation. [174657]

**Malcolm Wicks:** It is not within the Department's remit to require Vendside to transfer files to a claimant's legal representatives. The claimants' legal representatives are best placed to advise their clients of their options.

The Claims Management Regulation regime established by the Compensation Act 2006 provides the statutory framework for the regulation of claims management activities. Further information can be found on the Claims Management Regulations website on http://www.claimsregulation.gov.uk/index.aspx. Complaints about the ongoing behaviour of claims handlers such as Vendside could be referred to the Claims Management Regulator.

Alternatively, complaints about Vendside's refusal to disclose data could be made to the Information Commissioner.

### Insolvency: Fees and Charges

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to bring forward proposals to reform legislation governing insolvencies and the fees levied by liquidators in the administration thereof. [171180]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* We are seeking to introduce a new individual insolvency procedure, the debt relief order (DRO) from April 2009, the framework for which is set out in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. DROs are aimed at people who owe relatively little, have very low incomes and few, if any, assets and have no way to pay their debts because they are financially excluded from existing remedies. In order to obtain a DRO the debtor will need to pay one up-front fee that will be set at a level to cover the official receiver's costs of administering the case and no more. The precise level is yet to be determined but it will be significantly less than the deposit required on presentation of a bankruptcy petition and no further fees will be payable in such cases.

We have also been consulting extensively on proposals to augment the existing individual voluntary arrangement regime (IVA) with a simplified version of the IVA for those with undisputed debts of less than £75,000. The necessary legislative changes to give effect to this are planned to come into force from October 2008.

Work is also being undertaken to consolidate and modernise the insolvency secondary legislation including the insolvency rules themselves, which set out the detailed procedures for the various insolvency processes. The changes proposed include changes to the mechanism by which insolvency office-holders have their remuneration and expenses agreed by creditors. These changes are intended to increase transparency and accountability by requiring insolvency office-holders to have their remuneration and expenses agreed by creditors. These changes are intended to increase transparency and accountability by requiring insolvency office-holders to provide information on remuneration taken, on a regular basis. Creditors will be given new powers to request further and better particulars in respect of remuneration charged and expenses incurred, together with clearer rights to challenge those amounts in court where they consider them to be excessive.

### Lifeguards: Minimum Wage

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of swimming pool lifeguards who receive the minimum wage at the *(a)* adult and *(b)* 16 to 17-year-old rate. [173793]

**Mr. McFadden:** Estimates of the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are derived from the ONS's Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). It does not contain the occupational detail needed to identify "swimming pool lifeguards" and so an estimate is not available.

### Microgeneration: North East Region

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of the UK's electricity was supplied from sources in the North East using microgeneration technologies in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [173559]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Specific figures for the amount of electricity generated by microgeneration at regional level are not available; however, we estimate that there are approximately 100,000 microgeneration installations in the United Kingdom.

### Nuclear Installations Inspectorate: Recruitment

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many additional specialist personnel the nuclear installations inspectorate intends to recruit to undertake the work to approve four alternative designs of nuclear reactors within three years. [173869]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: The nuclear regulators, which include the nuclear installations inspectorate (NII) of the Health and Safety Executive, will apply their resources to ensure that a rigorous approach is taken to the generic design assessment (GDA) process. If the outcome of the consultation on the Future of Nuclear Power is that private sector companies should be allowed to invest in new nuclear power stations, the NII will need to take on additional staff as the assessment process progresses. The number of specialist personnel the NII will require to undertake the process is a matter for them.

Although four designs are currently being assessed in the initial stage of GDA, we set out in the consultation document that if more than three designs remain viable following this stage, then a prioritisation process will need to be run to select no more than three designs to proceed to the detailed stage of the assessments. Depending on the outcome of the nuclear consultation, we will announce the detail of how this prioritisation process would operate in due course.

### Nuclear Power

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on the future use of fast breeder reactors in the UK. [173863]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We have not yet reached a decision on the future of nuclear power following our nuclear consultation which ended on 10 October.

In the event that, following the consultation, the Government decide to allow private sector energy companies to build new nuclear power stations, it will be for the private sector to bring forward proposals for new reactors and for the regulators to be assured of the safety, security and environmental emissions of a design before it can be licensed.

Fast breeder reactors are currently a long way off in terms of being able to be deployed on a commercial scale and thus none are going through the first steps of the generic design assessment process.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Public Participation

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK citizens had their views directly solicited in respect of plans for an increased number of nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [174639]

**Malcolm Wicks:** We intended our public consultation on whether it is in the public interest to give private sector energy companies the option of investing in new nuclear power stations to hear from a wide range of different people across the UK. To that end, as well as publishing a consultation document, we advertised the consultation in the press; held meetings for interested organisations, which were attended by a total of about 400 representatives; held meetings near existing nuclear facilities attended by a total of about 200 people; and held nine day-long events attended by about 1,000 members of the general public. We also sent direct mail to over 5,000 community organisations, and placed copies of the document together with a poster in public libraries. In addition to the views expressed at the meetings, we received over 2,700 written responses from individuals and organisations. Following consideration of these responses we will announce our decision in the new year.

### Nuclear Power: Radioactive Wastes

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what projections he has made of annual volumes of *(a)* high, *(b)* intermediate and *(c)* low-level nuclear waste that may arise from the introduction of a new generation of nuclear power stations. [173864]

**Malcolm Wicks:** It is the Government's position that, if we conclude private sector energy companies should be allowed to invest in nuclear power, it will be for private sector energy companies to bring forward plans to build any new nuclear power stations. This means that we cannot be sure of the number or design of stations that might be proposed, or of the volumes of waste that could arise.

In the consultation document "The Future of Nuclear Power", we considered an example scenario that had been referenced in the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management's (CoRWM) Inventory Report which would rather more than replace existing nuclear capacity. For this estimated scenario, the CoRWM Inventory Report summary information document shows that it would, over the lifetime of the new stations, add 8 per cent. to the UK's existing volume of radioactive waste.

In the event that the Government conclude in favour of allowing private sector energy companies to invest in new nuclear power stations, we will continue to explore these issues as part of our programme of facilitative actions.

## Nuclear Reactors

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether it is his policy to require the nuclear installations inspectorate to establish commercial demand from utility companies for each of the nuclear reactor types they are assessing. [173870]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: The approach of the regulators (which includes the nuclear installations inspectorate) to generic design assessment (GDA) of new nuclear reactor designs is to provide a rigorous and structured examination of the safety, security and environmental aspects of possible new nuclear reactor designs. Before GDA began, we carried out a prioritisation process to ensure that the regulators could focus their resources on those designs that have the greatest chance of being built. This process required all applicants for GDA to have the support of a credible nuclear power operator. The result of this process was that four designs are being assessed in the initial stage of GDA.

As we set out in the consultation document, if more than three designs remain viable following this stage, a prioritisation process will be needed to select no more than three designs to proceed to the detailed stage of the assessments. This second stage of prioritisation would also take account of the designs' likelihood of being deployed in the UK by 2016-22. We will announce the detail of how this prioritisation process would operate in due course. This prioritisation will only be necessary if the outcome of the consultation on the future of nuclear power is that private-sector companies should be allowed to invest in new nuclear power stations.

## Oil

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what studies have been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the peak oil phenomenon; and if he will make a statement. [173881]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department is aware of a wide range of academic and industry studies which look at future world oil supplies, including the peak oil phenomenon, and meets experts regularly to discuss this and other oil market issues.

The Government's assessment is that the world's oil resources are sufficient to prevent total global oil production peaking before 2030. This is consistent with the assessment made by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its 2007 World Energy Outlook (WEO).

## Oil: North Sea

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the proportion of the UK's energy needs which will be met by UK North Sea reserves in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2012, *(c)* 2015, *(d)* 2020 and *(e)* 2030. [173861]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Estimates of the proportion of UK primary energy demand met by UK oil and gas production can be derived from "Updated Energy and Carbon Emissions Projections", published alongside the May 2007 Energy White Paper at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39580.pdf, but only for the years 2005, 2010 and 2020.

On the basis of the central production projections, central fossil fuel price assumptions and central estimates of the impact on demand of policy measures in the Energy White Paper included in that paper, the proportion of the UK's energy needs which were or would be met by UK North sea reserves in (a) 2005, (b) 2010 and (c) 2020 are (a) 70 per cent., (b) 58 per cent. and (c) 24 per cent.

## Political Levy

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of members of each trade union with a political fund have exercised their right to opt out of the political levy, according to records held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer. [173711]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: The Department does not hold records of its own regarding the numbers who opt out of paying the political levy.

The Certification Officer has provided the following figures. These are based on the latest returns made to the Certification Officer by the relevant trade unions. The proportion of members who have exercised their right to opt out of the political levy is calculated against members contributing to the union rather than the total number of members.

| *Name* | *Total number of union members contributing to General Fund* | *Number of members who have completed an exemption notice and therefore do not contribute to the Political Fund* | *Number of members who have completed an exemption notice and therefore do not contribute to the Political Fund as a percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amicus | 807,200 | 158,331 | 19.6 |
| Aspect | 3,969 | 68 | 1.7 |
| Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen | 17,944 | 319 | 1.8 |
| Association of Revenue and Customs | 2,594 | 83 | 3.2 |
| Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union | 24,564 | 0 | 0.0 |

| *Name* | *Total number of union members contributing to General Fund* | *Number of members who have completed an exemption notice and therefore do not contribute to the Political Fund* | *Number of members who have completed an exemption notice and therefore do not contribute to the Political Fund as a percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union | 26,543 | 155 | 0.6 |
| Communication Workers Union | 238,817 | 25,883 | 10.8 |
| Community | 29,117 | 2,977 | 10.2 |
| Connect; The Union for Professionals in Communications | 19,473 | 5,154 | 26.5 |
| Educational Institute of Scotland | 58,829 | 1,245 | 2.1 |
| Fire Brigades Union | 45,839 | 9,016 | 19.7 |
| GMB | 575,892 | 26,141 | 4.5 |
| Musicians Union | 32,641 | 644 | 2.0 |
| National Association of Colliery Deputies and Shotfirers | 336 | 0 | 0.0 |
| National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Woman Teachers | 251,763 | 9 | 0.0 |
| National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education | 62,023 | 2,507 | 4.0 |
| National Union of Mineworkers | 7,418 | 112 | 1.5 |
| National Union of Mineworkers North Western Cheshire and Cumbria Miners Association | 17 | 0 | 0.0 |
| National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers | 65,399 | 433 | 0.7 |
| POA | 35,772 | 4 | 0.0 |
| Prospect | 90,456 | 230 | 0.3 |
| Transport and General Workers Union | 670,430 | 28,985 | 4.3 |
| Transport Salaried Staffs' Association | 30,570 | 2,019 | 6.6 |
| Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians | 124,217 | 16,942 | 13.6 |
| Union of Democratic Mineworkers | 2,268 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers | 341,291 | 17,742 | 5.2 |
| UNISON: The Public Services Union | 1,343,000 | 20,389 | 1.5 |
| Unity | 7,239 | 130 | 1.8 |
| Total | 4,915,621 | 319,518 | 6.5 |

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which trade unions with political funds offer discounted membership or a rebate to union members who opt out of the political levy. [173712]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* When trade union members opt out of contributing to their union's political fund, the union must ensure that they do not make payments to the political fund and their payments to the union must be set or adjusted accordingly. There are no grounds to believe that trade unions with political funds are failing to comply with these legal requirements.

### Power Stations: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) for how long each power station in the United Kingdom has been shut down for *(a)* safety concerns and *(b)* essential maintenance in each of the last 10 years; [174526]

(2) how many temporary shutdowns there were of *(a)* nuclear, *(b)* coal, *(c)* hydro-electric, *(d)* gas and *(e)* oil-fired power stations in each of the last 10 years. [174527]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Planned or unplanned closures of this nature are commercial and/or technical decisions for the companies that own and operate the power stations to take in conjunction with the relevant health and safety authorities. My Department therefore does not keep records of the operating decisions of individual power stations.

### Radioactive Materials: Transport

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what arrangements his Department uses to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* track nuclear waste materials; and if he will make a statement. [169395]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

For the purposes of this question "nuclear waste materials" will be taken to mean irradiated nuclear fuel (INF) which is transported by rail from nuclear power stations to Sellafield in Cumbria.

The transport of all radioactive material, including INF, is governed by the stringent internationally agreed standards recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an agency appointed by the United Nations to oversee all aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy worldwide.

Packages ("flasks") used to transport INF are designed to withstand a very severe impact followed by severe fire. The safety of INF shipments is therefore secured by the design and build quality of the packages used and not by the particular mode of transport used or route travelled. The Department for Transport (DfT) is required to ensure that the design of INF flasks meets the IAEA standards and issues approval certificates to this effect.

*(a)* In addition to approving the design of flasks, monitoring activities regarding the transport of INF carried out by the DfT consist of

(i) The commissioning of reports on the radiological impact of the transport of radioactive material under normal and abnormal conditions. The latest report looking at the rail transport of INF under normal conditions is "Survey into the Radiological Impact of the Normal Transport of Radioactive Material in the UK by Road and Rail, NRPB-W66". Reports detailing abnormal events involving the transport of radioactive material in the UK have been published annually since 1989 the latest being "Radiological Consequences Resulting from Accidents and Incidents Involving the Transport of Radioactive Materials in the UK—2005 Review, HPA-RPD-021". Copies of these and similar reports have been placed in the House Libraries and recent ones are available via the DfT website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/dgt1/guidance/guidance7class/theradiologicalimpactofthetr1178

The conclusion of these reports is that the radiological impact of INF transport is low.

(ii) Periodic radiological surveys of the extent of radioactive contamination on the external surfaces of INF flasks. These surveys are carried out by suitable qualified and experienced personnel working under contract to the DfT and are an independent check to those routinely carried out by the industry. These surveys confirm that incidences of external contamination in excess of the regulatory limits are low and their radiological impact is minimal. Events where the industry has reported contamination in excess of the regulatory limits are detailed in the reports referred to in (i) above.

(iii) Compliance assurance audits of organisations and their Quality management systems involved in the transport of INF.

*(b)* A condition of being approved by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), part of the Health and Safety Executive, is that all carriers must meet regulatory or defined requirements which require all such movements to be notified to the OCNS at least seven days in advance of the proposed date of transport and to be tracked throughout the course of the transport.

In the case of INF transported by train, such tracking is carried out by one or more of the following methods:

(i) Train Operations Processing System (TOPS). TOPS is a UK rail network-wide computerised system managed by Network Rail which records the expected and actual passing time of all trains. TOPS monitors trains along their preset routes and, in this case, alerts whenever a train is delayed by more than 60 seconds or deviates from its set route.

(ii) Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite tracking, monitored by the carrier in accordance with parameters set by OCNS.

(iii) Mobile phone communications, again monitored by the carrier in accordance with parameters set by OCNS.

### Regional Development Agencies: Finance

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget is of each regional development agency for 2007-08; how much each has spent in each year since 1999; and how much was spent on *(a)* staffing and *(b)* administration by each in each year. [171911]

**Mr. Timms:** The Regional Development Agencies' grant in aid budgets from 1999 to 2007 are set out in the following tables.

The tables also show how much RDAs spent on staffing and administration from

1999 to 2007.

*Grant in aid budgets*

*£ million*

| *RDA*[1] | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Advantage West Midlands | 103 | 113 | 141 | 204 | 240 |
| East of England Development Agency | 30 | 36 | 55 | 88 | 80 |
| East Midlands Development Agency | 41 | 67 | 86 | 101 | 117 |
| London Development Agency | — | 235 | 266 | 295 | 317 |
| North West Development Agency | 141 | 156 | 270 | 274 | 309 |
| One North East | 92 | 98 | 158 | 193 | 223 |
| South East England Development Agency | 63 | 73 | 97 | 112 | 136 |
| South West of England Regional Development Agency | 43 | 62 | 85 | 103 | 99 |
| Yorkshire Forward | 121 | 125 | 207 | 211 | 244 |

| *RDA*[1] | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Advantage West Midlands | 217 | 310 | 281 | 291 |
| East of England Development Agency | 84 | 139 | 140 | 137 |
| East Midlands Development Agency | 119 | 168 | 161 | 176 |
| London Development Agency | 328 | 371 | 416 | 374 |
| North West Development Agency | 367 | 402 | 402 | 395 |
| One North East | 227 | 254 | 273 | 277 |
| South East England Development Agency | 110 | 165 | 172 | 163 |
| South West of England Regional Development Agency | 113 | 168 | 171 | 159 |
| Yorkshire Forward | 288 | 310 | 313 | 304 |

[1] RDAs have other sources of income other than grant in aid (including European funding and coalfields funding).

*RDA Staffing and Admin*

*£000*

| *RDAs* | *1999-2000* | | *2000-01* | | *2001-02* | | *2002-03* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Staffing[1] | Admin[2] | Staffing | Admin | Staffing | Admin | Staffing | Admin |
| AWM | 4,058 | 5,142 | 5,493 | 6,391 | 6,752 | 6,271 | 9,159 | 6,457 |
| EEDA | 2,284 | 2,130 | 3,289 | 2,204 | 4,155 | 2,883 | 5,435 | 3,664 |
| EMDA | 3,771 | 4,483 | 4,284 | 4,081 | 4,830 | 3,991 | 5,569 | 5,611 |
| LDA | — | — | 2,719 | 2,971 | 5,365 | 5,592 | 8,613 | 8,079 |
| NWDA | 6,147 | 4,721 | 7,569 | 5,655 | 8,489 | 8,080 | 10,561 | 8,562 |
| ONE | 7,020 | 9,563 | 7,791 | 8,199 | 8,139 | 8,519 | 9,186 | 9,689 |
| SEEDA | 3,438 | 3,576 | 4,680 | 4,182 | 5,757 | 5,068 | 8,118 | 6,941 |
| SWRDA | 5,466 | 3,618 | 5,711 | 3,089 | 6,518 | 3,059 | 7,662 | 6,696 |
| YF | 5,645 | 6,692 | 6,278 | 8,589 | 8,227 | 6,674 | 10,004 | 6,604 |

| | *2003-04* | | *2004-05* | | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Staffing* | *Admin* | *Staffing* | *Admin* | *Staffing* | *Admin* | *Staffing* | *Admin* |
| AWM | 10,940 | 7,259 | 14,142 | 6,908 | 14,954 | 6,357 | 15,238 | 5,297 |
| EEDA | 5,810 | 4,037 | 7,658 | 4,679 | 9,739 | 5,410 | 11,382 | 5,582 |
| EMDA | 6,851 | 6,027 | 7,410 | 6,106 | 9,023 | 6,779 | 10,084 | 6,303 |
| LDA | 12,980 | 1,575 | 19,186 | 11,423 | 21,180 | 10,877 | 30,656 | 7,004 |
| NWDA | 13,801 | 8,186 | 15,739 | 7,896 | 16,780 | 8,900 | 19,321 | 10,382 |
| ONE | 12,288 | 9,736 | 13,360 | 8,879 | 14,868 | 8,880 | 15,394 | 9,434 |
| SEEDA | 12,629 | 7,519 | 13,606 | 7,525 | 15,342 | 6,998 | 17,248 | 7,091 |
| SWRDA | 9,541 | 6,802 | 9,950 | 6,522 | 11,842 | 7,385 | 13,538 | 8,408 |
| YF | 12,093 | 7,317 | 13,179 | 6,918 | 15,129 | 7,063 | 17,957 | 5,770 |

[1] Costs include salaries, national insurance, pensions, staff and board members.

[2] Administration costs are those costs incurred in the running of the organisation, excluding salaries.

## Severn Barrage

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what feasibility studies have been commissioned by his Department on the possibility of *(a)* a tidal barrage and *(b)* tidal lagoons in the Severn Estuary since the Sustainable Development Commission published its report "Turning the Tide: Tidal Power in the UK"; and if he will make a statement. [172603]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* On 21 September my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced a new feasibility study that will look at the potential for tidal power in the Severn Estuary.

The detailed remit of the feasibility study is now being scoped and a statement on this will be made early in the new year.

## Small Businesses: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses in London applied for small business tax relief in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [169274]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply as Minister responsible for business rates.

The information requested is not available. However, as at 31 December 2006, 43,100 businesses in London were in receipt of small business rate relief.

## Tidal Power: Finance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department has allocated to the development of tidal power for the production of energy in the last five years. [173265]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The following table gives the amount of funding committed to the development of tidal power technologies by the Department for each of the last five years.

| | *Total committed (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 6,733,304 |
| 2004-05 | 5,957,407 |
| 2005-06 | 2,106,788 |
| 2006-07 | 4,384,485 |
| 2007-08 | 4,059,995 |

### Tidal Power: River Severn

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in his Department's review of the options for Severn tidal power; when he expects the review to be completed; and what estimate he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* the capital cost of a tidal power scheme and *(b)* levels of UK carbon dioxide emissions of each year which passes before a scheme comes into effect. [174091]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Tewkesbury (Mr. Robertson) on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 908W.

### Tidal Power: Swansea

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures are being considered by the Department to support the proposed tidal lagoon demonstration project in Swansea; and if he will make a statement. [172604]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: On 19 November my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that Tidal Lagoons (below 1 gigawatt capacity) such as that proposed for Swansea Bay will be included within the scope of the Renewables Obligation.

The detail of any changes to the Renewables Obligation will be published early next year.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Admiralty House

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the provision of official ministerial residences in Admiralty House includes the supply of *(a)* linen and laundry services, *(b)* porters, *(c)* internal plants, *(d)* catering services, *(e)* telephones, *(f)* cable or satellite TV and *(g)* internet access. [166199]

**Edward Miliband:** The provision of services to ministerial residences is a matter for occupying departments in accordance with the ministerial code.

The charge paid to Cabinet Office by occupying departments covers a share of the capital charge, utilities, security guards as well as a facilities management charge which includes cleaning of the buildings' common parts.

### Admiralty House: Empty Property

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for how long the official ministerial residences in Admiralty House previously occupied by the *(a)* right hon. Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) and *(b)* the right hon. Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) have been empty. [173474]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heaid) 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 860W and to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 23 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1631W. Further to these answers, my right hon. Friend, the former Lord Chancellor's use of the flat for official entertaining and other engagements ceased on his departure from ministerial office.

### Charity Commission: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget of the Charity Commission was in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* each year of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period. [173156]

**Phil Hope:** This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the Non-Ministerial Government Department responsible for the regulation of charities in England and Wales. The Chief Executive of the Charity Commission will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173521]

**Gillian Merron:** A mixture of real and artificial Christmas trees are situated at certain points throughout the Cabinet Office Estate. Real Christmas trees are disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.

### Complaints

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many complaints from civil servants against *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* Ministers were formally recorded in his Department since 27 June. [173363]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply of Monday 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 596-7W to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker).

## Data Protection

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the terms of reference are of the review data sharing in the public sector. [173476]

**Gillian Merron:** The terms of reference for the review Sir Gus O'Donnell is leading on data handling procedures in Government are:

> "To examine:
>
> the procedures in Departments and agencies for the protection of data
>
> their consistency with current Government-wide policies and standards;
>
> the arrangements for ensuring that procedures are being fully and properly implemented;
>
> and to make recommendations on improvements that should be made"

## Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Horam:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidelines he has provided to Government Departments on responding to letters and e-mails from *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* right hon. and hon. Members (i) acknowledging receipt of the correspondence and (ii) giving the time allowed for a substantive answer to be sent. [174167]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

## Departmental ICT

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many attempted hacking or suspected cyber attacks or other malicious computer security breaches were committed against the computer systems at No. 10 Downing street in each of the last three years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [167974]

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many attempted breaches of *(a)* Government and *(b)* private systems as a result of cyber-based espionage were recorded in the UK in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [172531]

**Edward Miliband:** It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163987]

**Edward Miliband:** Full-time equivalent headcounts for every Department, including the Cabinet Office, are published on a quarterly basis by the Office for National Statistics as part of its reporting on civil service statistics. At the end of the third quarter of 2007 the Office for National Statistics reported that the Cabinet Office (excluding agencies) employed 1270 full-time equivalents.

The Cabinet Office expects to deliver sufficient efficiencies to reach the full-time equivalent headcount target set for the Department in Spending Review 2004.

No formal forecast of full-time equivalent headcount has been made for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years. For planning purposes the Department has assumed that there is likely to be a slight decline in full-time equivalent headcount numbers after 31 March 2008, reflecting the outcome of the comprehensive spending review of 2007.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of posts in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* No. 10 Downing street and *(c)* the Office of the Leader of the House were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172246]

**Gillian Merron:** No. 10 Downing street and the Office of the Leader of the House are part of the Cabinet Office. The majority of the posts in the Cabinet Office are posts that are categorised as Policy, Funding and Regulation posts under the definitions used by the 2004 Gershon Independent Review of Public Sector Efficiency. Neither the Gershon Review nor the Government response to that review set any target on the move of back office posts into frontline delivery for the Cabinet Office or the Office of the Leader of the House, and no posts have been categorised or re-categorised as either back office or frontline posts since 2004.

## Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's special advisers; and how many did so in April; [171449]

(2) what the office costs of the special advisers in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* No. 10 Downing Street were in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07, including the costs of support staff. [171459]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the right hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1095-96w. One civil servant supported the special advisers in my predecessor's office in April 2007.

In relation to No. 10, support staff assist a range of individuals, so it is not possible to provide information on how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of the Prime Minister's special advisers. All support given to special advisers is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Information on the office costs for special advisers cannot be disaggregated from overall office administration costs. Administration costs are accounted for in the relevant Cabinet Office annual resource accounts.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* dates, *(b)* locations and *(c)* costs were of the last four awaydays of his Department's departmental board. [173185]

**Gillian Merron:** Since taking post as Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service in August 2005, Sir Gus O'Donnell reformulated the Cabinet Office Board. There have since been two Board awaydays:

*2006*

Date: 23-24 February
Location: Down Hall Country House Hotel, Hertfordshire
Total cost (inc. VAT): £3,183.65

*2007*

Date: 19-20 April
Location: Sunningdale Park
Total cost (inc. VAT): £4,303.70

### Freedom of Information: Databases

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what fields of data there are in the Cabinet Office Freedom of Information database. [173179]

**Gillian Merron:** The Cabinet Office has a case management system to assist in the processing of correspondence received, including Freedom of Information requests. The fields of data include the type of correspondence, the date received and the date on which a response is due.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons in the last year for which figures are available. [170484]

**Gillian Merron:** In the 12-month period 1 December 2006 to 30 November 2007, the Department discovered that one individual engaged through a work permit on a fee paid basis was an overstayer and the individual's contract was terminated with immediate effect.

### Legislation: Public Participation

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent on *(a)* advertising and *(b)* conducting the Government's consultation on its draft legislative programme. [169359]

**Edward Miliband:** The Cabinet Office has spent £85,070 on the production of the Green Paper 'The Governance of Britain—The Government's Draft Legislative Programme' and the day-long deliberative forum on the draft legislative programme.

### Manpower: Prime Minister

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when a response will be sent to the letter of 19 September from the hon. Member for North Norfolk on Downing Street staff and requesting an internal review of a response to a Freedom of Information Act request. [173396]

**Edward Miliband:** The internal review requested by the hon. Member for North Norfolk of his freedom of information request is under way and a response will be issued shortly.

### Members' Correspondence

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174937]

**Edward Miliband:** The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' and peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

### Office of the Third Sector: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget of the Office of the Third Sector was in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* each year of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period. [173157]

**Phil Hope:** The Office of the Third Sector was established in May 2006. The budget of the Office of the Third Sector since its inception is as follows:

| | *Budget (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 135.1 |
| 2007-08 | 135.8 |

The budgets for each year of the spending review is as follows:

| | *Budget (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 168.7 |
| 2009-10 | 172.3 |
| 2010-11 | 176.0 |

### Repairs and Maintenance: Greater London

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many planning applications the Cabinet Office has submitted for permission for work on its properties in London in the last 12 months; to what building the applications pertained; and what the purpose was of the applications. [173475]

**Edward Miliband:** Information on how many planning applications the Cabinet Office has submitted for permission for work on its properties in London in the last 12 months; to what building the applications pertained; and what the purpose was of the applications, can be found at the Westminster city council website

http://www.westminster.gov.uk/environment/planning/applications/search/

### Strategy Unit

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 396W, on the Strategy Unit, what time-limited projects are being undertaken by the unit; and what the *(a)* start date and *(b)* expected end date of each such project is. [173188]

**Gillian Merron:** The Strategy Unit has been working on two time-limited projects since July 2007: joint work with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on childhood wellbeing in support of the Children's Plan, published on 11 December; and work with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department of Health, the Food Standards Agency and other Departments on a study of food and food policy in the UK, due to conclude in spring 2008.

## JUSTICE

### Asylum: Children

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures he *(a)* has put in place and *(b)* plans to put in place to expedite (i) trials and (ii) asylum hearings involving children. [174155]

**Maria Eagle:** The listing of cases in the criminal courts is a judicial function. The Lord Chief Justice issued guidance in July 2005 outlining the practices to be adopted when listing cases in the magistrates courts and Crown court. It says priority should be accorded to the trial of young defendants and specific account taken of whether they are remanded on bail or in custody.

The persistent young offenders (PYO) pledge was established in 1998 to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders from 142 days to 71 days. Under this pledge the Government remain committed to prioritising the prosecution of persistent young offenders.

The Government are also committed to ensuring that cases dealt with in the youth court are dealt with as swiftly and effectively as possible and are considering implementing the principles of the Criminal Justice Simple, Speedy, Summary (CJSSS) programme to speed up the youth court. A recent test at Balham youth court suggested that CJSSS could help achieve significant improvements in the time taken from charge to disposal of a case. I am placing a copy of the evaluation in the Library of the House.

The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal aims to process and hear all appeals quickly and efficiently. The current target for asylum appeals is six weeks from receipt of the appeal to determination by an immigration judge. There is therefore no need for special arrangements to expedite asylum appeals involving children, although there is guidance on the conduct of hearings involving unaccompanied minors.

### Cambridgeshire Probation Service

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the staff establishment of the Cambridgeshire Probation Service was in each year since 1997. [175178]

**Maria Eagle:** Information is not available for the full period requested. Data collected prior to April 2003 were collated by a different source and were incomplete in some categories and therefore are not directly comparable with the figures collected since that time.

The following table shows the staff in post in Cambridgeshire Probation Area from 2003 onwards.

*Staff in post*

| | *Cambridgeshire* | *NPS* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 225.30 | 19,164.00 |
| 2004 | 223.12 | 19,563.00 |
| 2005 | 242.18 | 20,584.00 |
| 2006 | 251.03 | 21,371.00 |
| 2007 | 247.66 | 21,268.00 |

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely effect on *(a)* staff numbers in and *(b)* recruitment to the Cambridgeshire Probation Service of his Department's recent budget settlement in the period 2008-09 to 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [175179]

**Maria Eagle:** The information supplied by the Cambridgeshire Probation Service shows that it has not yet completed detailed business planning for 2008-09 and beyond. However, early indications are that, in the light of the improved settlement from the 'flat cash' budget that was originally proposed, there will be no reductions in staffing establishment apart from those achieved through efficiency measures.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the budgets for the Cambridgeshire Probation Service for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [175180]

**Maria Eagle:** The main resource grant planning figures, which comprise the vast majority of the probation budget, have recently been issued to regional offender managers and probation boards to enable service level agreements (SLA) discussions to commence. Other smaller components of the probation budgets are in the process of being worked through pending updated information. The current planning assumption for Cambridgeshire is an increase of 3.41 per cent. for 2008-09 over 2007-08 on the main resource grant, which will be subject to confirmation when SLA negotiations are completed. Budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been set.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* voluntary redundancies of staff he estimates the Cambridgeshire Probation Service will make in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [175181]

**Maria Eagle:** The Information supplied by Cambridgeshire Probation Service shows that it is not expecting to make any voluntary or compulsory redundancies in 2008-09.

### Chelmsford Crown Court: Parking

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many car parking places are reserved for *(a)* judges, *(b)* prosecution barristers, *(c)* defence barristers, *(d)* members of the public and *(e)* staff at Chelmsford Crown court; what the total cost is of providing such spaces; what criteria are used for allocating car parking spaces to (i) judges, (ii) prosecution barristers, (iii) defence barristers, (iv) members of the public and (v) staff; what recent representations he has received about car parking in courts; and if he will make a statement; [174068]

(2) what parking facilities are available at Chelmsford Crown court for victims of crime; what recent representations he has received about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [174069]

**Maria Eagle:** There are 46 car park spaces at Chelmsford Crown court. There are up to six parking spaces available for judges and four for magistrates. There are eight parking spaces for court users with disabilities who are blue badge holders. Otherwise no spaces are provided specifically for *(b)* prosecution barristers, *(c)* defence barristers, *(d)* members of the public. *(e)* There are approximately 32 members of staff from the court and other Criminal Justice Agencies for whom car parking spaces are available. There are no costs attached to providing parking spaces as they form part of the overall court complex.

The criteria used for allocating car parking spaces are that people are (i) either judges or magistrates, (v) staff who work permanently on site at Chelmsford Crown court and who drive to work; or they can be allocated, on request by Court users who are disabled blue badge holders; including barristers for the (ii) prosecution, (iii) defence and (iv) members of the public.

There have been no recorded complaints concerning car parking.

There are no car parking spaces specifically allocated to victims of crime at Chelmsford Crown Court, except for those that have a disability. Departmental guidance on car parking is to provide parking for sensitive witnesses where space is available.

No recent representations have been received on this issue.

### Chelmsford Crown Court: Witnesses

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average waiting time is at Chelmsford Crown court for persons giving evidence; and what the average time taken was in *(a)* 1996, *(b)* 1998, *(c)* 2001, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2006. [174071]

**Maria Eagle:** The latest and historical figures, since records have been available, from Her Majesty's Courts Service witness survey are shown as follows:

| | *Estimated waiting time* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Survey date* | *Chelmsford* | *England and Wales* |
| November 1998 | 2 hours 56 minutes | 2 hours 53 minutes |
| June 2001 | 2 hours 33 minutes | 2 hours 34 minutes |
| June 2005 | 3 hours 33 minutes | 2 hours 22 minutes |
| June 2006 | 2 hours 37 minutes | 2 hours 25 minutes |
| June 2007 | 2 hours 49 minutes | 2 hours 18 minutes |

Data for the average waiting time for persons giving evidence is obtained from the biannual witness survey which is carried out over two weeks in June and November every year. It covers all witnesses who attended the Crown court, whether or not they were actually called to give evidence. We do not currently hold figures for the time taken to give evidence centrally.

Witness waiting times are affected by several factors, for example the times that witnesses are asked to attend, how many witnesses there are in a trial and what happens in the courtroom. There could be unexpected lengthy legal argument or other delays on the day, perhaps caused by the defendant not attending. These estimates should all be used with caution as the number of witnesses surveyed was less than 100 for each survey at Chelmsford Crown court, meaning that margins of error will be wide.

### Communications Act 2003

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions have been brought and *(b)* convictions obtained for offences under section 127(1) of the Communications Act 2003 in the last three years for which figures are available. [174426]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 are provided in the following table which covers the years 2004-2006.

It is not possible to separate offences under section 127(1) of the Communications Act 2003 from other offences under section 127 of the same act.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for improper use of public electronic communications network under the Communications Act 2003 England and Wales 2002-2004*[1, 2]

| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 214 | 143 |
| 2005 | 355 | 260 |
| 2006 | 550 | 377 |

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Court Proceedings Database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

### Contact Orders

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the durability of agreements on child contact reached through in-court conciliation; and what steps he is taking to reduce the number of such cases returning to court shortly after a child contact agreement has been reached; [173787]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the in-court conciliation pilots in diverting child contact cases from contested court proceedings; [173788]

(3) what effect agreements reached through in-court conciliation have had on the welfare of children in child contact cases. [173789]

**Bridget Prentice:** In March 2006 the Government published research by Dr. Liz Trinder of the university of East Anglia on in-court conciliation in three courts in England. This looked at the process and overall effectiveness of conciliation and examined the relative effectiveness of three contrasting models: 125 cases were examined immediately following the conciliation meeting and again six months later. A further study examined 117 of these cases to assess the position two years on. The Government published the findings of this further study on 21 November.

At the two-year follow-up, 79 per cent. of parents had an agreement about contact. More children were having overnight contact and the overall amount of contact per child had increased since the initial conciliation meeting. However, 60 per cent. of agreements made at the original conciliation meeting had been changed or broken down. Analysis suggests that this was due to one or more of the adults or children not supporting the agreement rather than a change in circumstances. In 40 per cent. of cases there had been further litigation; 9.4 per cent. of parents reported that their case was currently active, a reduction from 25.6 per cent. at the six-month follow-up.

To provide ongoing support to parents and help prevent a return to court, the courts can make Family Assistance Orders (FAOs). On 1 October 2007 the Government implemented section 6 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006. FAOs may now be made for 12 months rather than six, and are not restricted to exceptional cases.

The 2006 Act also contains provisions to enable the courts to direct parties to take part in contact activities during the court stage and before contact is formally agreed. These activities will provide parents with access to more therapeutic services designed to help them overcome some of the underlying issues they face, which can act as barriers to co-parenting and to making contact work. We will announce shortly the timetable for implementing these and other provisions in the Act.

The research found that 76 per cent. of parents in the study reached a full or partial agreement immediately following conciliation. In most of these cases the court will have made an order for contact with the consent of the parties, avoiding a contested final hearing. The Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service reports that in 2006-07 its dispute resolution work in these cases (focused mainly on the delivery of in-conciliation) achieved a full or partial agreement in 59.4 per cent. of cases going through the courts.

The research concludes that child wellbeing is related to the quality of the relationship between the parents. While parental relationships had improved a little for some, this improvement was modest and the majority of parents continued to report a negative relationship that had not improved since the original conciliation meeting. Contact activities will help to equip these parents with the skills and understanding they need to be more effective co-parents.

### Death: Mental Health

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inquests have been held in each of the last five years into deaths of people detained under the Mental Health Act in NHS mental health accommodation; and in how many of those inquests there was a jury. [173874]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Secretary of State for Health in his answer on 11 December reported that information provided by the Mental Health Act Commission indicated that 377 unnatural deaths of in-patients in NHS mental health accommodation took place between 2002 and 2006. Information on the number of inquests held on these deaths is not held centrally.

The Ministry of Justice does not ask coroners to make statistical returns on inquests resulting from deaths of patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons there is no requirement for a coroner to summon a jury for inquests into the deaths of people detained in NHS mental health accommodation under the Mental Health Act; and if he will make a statement. [173875]

**Bridget Prentice:** Section 8(3) of the Coroners Act 1988 requires the coroner to hold a jury inquest where he has jurisdiction and the person has died in prison, in police custody or in circumstances requiring an inquest under any other Act. Deaths of people detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 are not specified in the Coroners Act 1988 Section 8(3), and are not regarded as automatically requiring an inquest to be held. In the Coroners Bill, which will be brought before Parliament as soon as time allows, it is intended that the death of any person in lawful detention, including those detained under the Mental Health Act, will be investigated by a coroner.

### Departmental Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173813]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice, which was created on 9 May 2007, is committed to embedding equality and diversity in all our policies and practices as we recognise and value the diversity of our staff and customers.

The information requested is not recorded centrally and to supply the information would involve contacting each division across the Department at disproportionate cost. I am, however, able to provide information on dedicated equality and diversity teams within the Ministry of Justice.

The Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Division, which covers staff in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), has a budget for 2007-08 of £2,029,256. The projected staff cost is 1,505,010. The Division, which runs six staff networks and provides advice on equality and diversity issues, has a staff complement of 36.

Three Equality and Diversity Teams, transferred from the Home Office on 9 May 2007, are responsible for staff employed in the Prison Service and for equality and diversity policy in the Prison Service and National Offender Management Service. The teams have a combined budget for 2007-08 of 3,647,000 of which 1,925,652 is for staff costs. The teams employ a total of 40 staff.

In 2006-07 the budget for the Corporate Diversity Unit of the former DCA was £2,183,116 of which 1,053,869 was spent on staff costs. For 2005-06 the respective figures were £2,239,629 and £875,806.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each civil service grade are employed by his Department. [172739]

**Maria Eagle:** The latest figures for *(a)* men and *(b)* women within each civil service grade is reflected in Table A (Ministry of Justice' Headquarters) and Table B (Ministry of Justice' Agencies) as follows.

Table A: The table reflects the figures within the Ministry of Justice' Headquarters as at reference date 30 September 2007.

*Ministry of Justice Headquarters*

| *Civil Service Grade* | *M* | *F* |
|---|---|---|
| AA | 17 | 19 |
| AO | 116 | 270 |
| EO | 176 | 257 |
| Fast streamer | 19 | 17 |
| HEO | 231 | 310 |
| SEO | 183 | 200 |
| Grade 6, 7 | 231 | 246 |
| SCS | 49 | 39 |
| Unknown band | 0 | 3 |

*Note*
Unknown bands are former magistrates courts posts, which do not equate with Civil Service grades, and whose grading is yet to be finalised under the current pay and grading review.

Table B: The table reflects the figures within the Ministry of Justice Agencies as at reference date 30 September 2007.

*Ministry of Justice' Agencies*

| *Grade band* | *M* | *F* |
|---|---|---|
| *Her Majesty's Prisons Service* | | |
| AA | 5,473 | 3,724 |
| AO | 21,314 | 9,577 |
| EO | 2,644 | 2,039 |
| Fast streamer | 0 | 0 |
| HEO | 391 | 344 |
| SEO | 1,663 | 1,068 |
| Grade 6, 7 | 400 | 225 |
| SCS | 35 | 8 |
| Unknown band | 0 | 0 |
| *Her Majesty's Courts Service* | | |
| AA | 1,566 | 2,616 |
| AO | 2,406 | 7,330 |
| EO | 1,038 | 2,811 |
| Fast streamer | 4 | 3 |
| HEO | 386 | 828 |
| SEO | 704 | 1,307 |
| Grade 6, 7 | 459 | 392 |
| SCS | 49 | 18 |
| Unknown band | 99 | 235 |
| *Office of the Public Guardian* | | |
| AA | 8 | 8 |
| AO | 64 | 53 |
| EO | 51 | 73 |
| Fast streamer | 0 | 1 |
| HEO | 19 | 23 |
| SEO | 15 | 12 |
| Grade 6, 7 | 6 | 6 |
| SCS | 1 | 1 |
| Unknown band | 0 | 0 |
| *Tribunals Service* | | |
| AA | 143 | 183 |
| AO | 712 | 1,324 |
| EO | 164 | 330 |
| Fast streamer | 1 | 3 |
| HEO | 53 | 115 |
| SEO | 28 | 30 |
| Grade 6, 7 | 35 | 32 |
| SCS | 7 | 4 |
| Unknown band | 0 | 1 |
| *Scotland Office and Offices of Advocate General* | | |
| AA | 3 | 1 |
| AO | 4 | 4 |
| EO | 0 | 1 |
| Fast streamer | 1 | 1 |
| HEO | 3 | 1 |
| SEO | 1 | 1 |
| Grade 6, 7 | 4 | 4 |
| SCS | 5 | 1 |
| Unknown band | 0 | 1 |
| *Wales Office* | | |
| AA | 1 | 1 |
| AO | 3 | 6 |
| EO | 7 | 8 |
| Fast streamer | 0 | 0 |
| HEO | 5 | 5 |
| SEO | 1 | 7 |
| Grade 6, 7 | 6 | 3 |
| SCS | 4 | 0 |
| Unknown band | 0 | 0 |

*Ministry of Justice' Agencies*

| *Grade band* | *M* | *F* |
|---|---|---|
| *Office for Criminal Justice Reform* | | |
| AA | 0 | 0 |
| AO | 3 | 10 |
| EO | 35 | 27 |
| HEO | 36 | 27 |
| SEO | 34 | 21 |
| Grade 7 | 34 | 33 |
| Grade 6 | 18 | 7 |
| SCS | 11 | 3 |
| Unknown band | 21 | 23 |
| | | |
| *National Offender Management Service* | | |
| AA | 13 | 19 |
| AO | 80 | 177 |
| EO | 113 | 162 |
| HEO | 76 | 102 |
| SEO | 161 | 108 |
| Grade 7 | 144 | 121 |
| Grade 6 | 81 | 46 |
| SCS | 31 | 25 |
| Unknown band | 89 | 19 |

*Note*

Unknown bands are former magistrates courts posts, which do not equate with Civil Service grades, and whose grading is yet to be finalised under the current pay and grading review.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years; [174420]

(2) what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172516]

**Maria Eagle:** As the Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007 this answer refers to the performance of the delivery bodies previously belonging to the Home Office and Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA).

HM Prison Service is implementing a structured waste management programme across the public sector managed prisons estate. Waste management and processing within prisons, in the main, includes setting in place waste management units employing prisoners in the separation and processing of materials from the waste stream for recycling.

1. Financial year 2002-03 the total waste arising reported was 2,837 tonnes, the total waste processed for recycling was 1,081 tonnes providing an average percent of waste arising recycled to be 38 per cent. (Hazardous waste not included)
2. Financial year 2003-04 the total waste arising reported was 4,800 tonnes, the total waste processed for recycling was 1,396 tonnes providing an average percent of waste arising recycled to be 29 per cent.
3. Financial year 2004-05 the total waste arising reported was 9,229 tonnes, the total waste processed for recycling was 3,851 tonnes providing an average percent of waste arising recycled to be 42 per cent.
4. Financial year 2005-06 the total waste arising reported was 12,868 tonnes, the total waste processed for recycling was 5 569 tonnes providing an average percent of waste arising recycled to be 43 per cent.
5. Financial year 2006-07 the total waste arising reported was 15,960 tonnes, the total waste processed for recycling was 7,022 tonnes providing an average percent of waste arising recycled to be 44 per cent.

The former DCA had a policy of recycling but did not collect any historical data on the amount of waste recycled. As part of the establishment of the Ministry of Justice, and to help measure progress towards the sustainable operations on the Government estate targets, a waste management strategy has been developed and is currently being implemented across the estate. The waste management strategy will enable the Department to increase the quantities of waste recycled and report on progress to the Sustainable Development Commission.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to undertake; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [172548]

**Maria Eagle:** A list of ad hoc reviews, groups and taskforces that have commenced and those that have been announced by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) but are yet to commence is set out in the following table. Consultations being conducted by the MoJ are published on the departmental website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/consultations.htm

The purpose of each consultation is provided at the beginning of each paper.

| *Operated by Directorate/Agency* | *Provide name/details of review or taskforce* | *What is the purpose of the review or taskforce?* | *When is it planned to start and when is it due to finish?* | *Has a ministerial statement been made and when?* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| An independent joint review of restraint commissioned by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Department for Children, Schools and Families. | The review is led by Peter Smallridge CBE and Andrew Williamson CBE. | The review will consider policy and practice across all secure juvenile settings, taking account of the use of restraint in young offender institutions, secure training centres and secure children's homes. | Ministers appointed the joint Chairs on 8 October. The chairs have been asked to report their recommendations by 4 April 2008. | David Hanson made an announcement on 28 July 2007. |

| *Operated by Directorate/Agency* | *Provide name/details of review or taskforce* | *What is the purpose of the review or taskforce?* | *When is it planned to start and when is it due to finish?* | *Has a ministerial statement been made and when?* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Review commissioned by the Prime Minister and not the Ministry of Justice. The staff and funding are provided by this Department. | Goldsmith Review of Citizenship. | To articulate more clearly the significance of citizenship, and develop recommendations to ensure that our approach to citizenship is appropriate for modern issues of migration, identity and civic participation. | Started on 5 October, expected to report in spring 2008. | Announced in Green Paper on Governance of Britain. |
| National Offender Management Service. | Lord Carter's Review of the Prison System in England and Wales—independent third party review. | To consider options for improving the balance between the supply of prison places and demand for them, and to make recommendations on how this could be achieved. | Started in June 2007 and has just finished, on 5 December 2007. | Ministerial oral statement made by Justice Secretary on 5 December, repeated by Lord Hunt in the Lords. |
| Cabinet Office led. Strategy Group leading in MoJ. | Data handling in Government. | To ensure that all Departments and all agencies check their procedures for the storage and use of data. | Started on 21 November 2007. No closing date announced. | Prime Minister announced on 21 November at PMQs. |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Race, Confidence and Justice Unit. | Race For Justice. | The Race for Justice programme of work aims to improve the service offered to victims of hate crime by CJS agencies. | Started summer 2006—expected to be completed by summer 2009. | Launched by the Attorney-General and Gerry Sutcliffe via ministerial statements June 2006. |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Better Trials Unit. | Tackling Gangs Action Programme. | We are inputting on the witness protection side. | Ends 31 March 2008. | Home Secretary made statement on 9 September. |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Better Trials Unit. | Anonymity in sex offence cases. | To see if the Court of Appeal should be given the power to displace complainant anonymity where they consider that the allegation was false and malicious. | The review was commenced following the Court of Appeal's decision on 12 September 2006 to quash the conviction in the case of Blackwell. It is expected to conclude early in 2008. | Review announced in reply to PQ 29 November 2006. |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Better Trials Unit. | Third party disclosure review. | To set up arrangements for the disclosure of material by third parties to criminal investigations, proceedings, and reviews of possible miscarriages of justice which enable practitioners to carry out the duties imposed on them more satisfactorily, and so make for a more modern and efficient criminal justice process. | The review commenced in October 2005. | No. |
| National Offender Management Service. | A working group to be established to examine the advantages, disadvantages and feasibility of a structured sentencing framework and permanent sentencing commission. To be chaired by a senior member of the judiciary. | As recommended by Lord Carter's Review of the Prison System—to examine the advantages, disadvantages and feasibility of a structured sentencing framework and permanent sentencing commission. | Government announced intention to set up working group on 5 December, in response to Lord Carter's Review of the Prison System. Intention is that it should report to the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice by summer 2008. | Working group announced in Justice Secretary oral statement on 5 December. |
| Ministry of Justice Constitution Directorate. | Review of voting systems. | Its purpose is to review the experience of the new voting systems introduced in the United Kingdom to inform the debate about whether changes should be made to the electoral system for the House of Commons. | This review commenced in May 2005 following the general election. | Secretary of State for Justice is due to issue a written ministerial statement on 11 December announcing that the review is complete and that it will be made ready for publication in January 2008. |

| *Operated by Directorate/Agency* | *Provide name/details of review or taskforce* | *What is the purpose of the review or taskforce?* | *When is it planned to start and when is it due to finish?* | *Has a ministerial statement been made and when?* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| National Offender Management Service. | Prison Population Taskforce. A small ad hoc team of officials, largely drawn from within NOMS, led at SCS level. | To support the Department and Ministers in managing a very tight prison population in the period prior to the publication of Lord Carter's review of prisons. | Started in August 2007. The taskforce requirement will be reviewed as part of the Department's consideration of its response to Lord Carter's review. | No. |
| National Offender Management Service. | Review of Childcare Resettlement Licence: (Release on Temporary Licence). | The purpose of the review is to ensure that the new Childcare Resettlement Licence, which enables prisoners who are sole carers to be temporarily released to visit their children, is working as intended. | A review of Prison Service Order 6300 Release on Temporary Licence focusing on Childcare Resettlement Licence was planned to be completed in 2007. The review began in the spring of 2007 but a planned completion date cannot be provided at present. | No. |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform. | Failure to Appear warrant withdrawal practice. | To identify FTA warrant withdrawal practice and amend current guidance if required. | Started on 29 November. Aiming to conclude by end of January 2008. | Announced by Secretary of State in written ministerial statement on 29 November. |
| Independent review commissioned by the Prime Minister and Jack Straw. The staff and funding to support the review are provided by this Department. | Data Sharing Review. Led in independent capacity by Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner, and Dr Mark Walport, the Director of the Wellcome Trust. | The review will consider whether there should be any changes to the way the Data Protection Act 1998 operates in the UK and the options for implementing any such changes. It will include recommendations on the powers and sanctions available to the regulator and courts in the legislation governing data sharing and data protection. It will also make recommendations on how data sharing policy should be developed in a way that ensures proper transparency, scrutiny and accountability. | The review was announced on 25 October and is due to report in the first half of 2008. | No. |
| Paul Dacre, Editor-in-Chief of Associated Newspapers and member of the Press Complaints Commission—working with Sir Joe Pilling, former Permanent Secretary of the Northern Ireland Office, and the eminent historian David Cannadine, secretariat support from TNA. | '30 year rule' review. | To undertake a review of the '30 year rule' that governs the transfer of historical records to the National Archives. | The review was announced by the Prime Minister in his Liberty speech on 25 October—the review is due to report back in the first half of 2008. | Review was announced on 25 October 2007 in the Prime Minister's Liberty Speech. |
| National Offender Management Service and Department of Health. | Lord Bradley Review. | To examine the extent to which offenders with mental health problems or learning disabilities could, in appropriate cases: be diverted from prison to other services; the barriers to such diversion; and, to make recommendations to Government, in particular on the organisation of effective court liaison and diversion arrangements and the services needed to support them. | Announced 5 December as part of Carter Review announcement. The review would aim to complete its work by June 2008, having consulted widely, including, in particular, professional bodies and service providers. | Ministerial oral statement made by Justice Secretary on 5 December, repeated by Lord Hunt in the Lords. |
| Ministry of Justice | Ministry of Justice Third Sector Strategy forthcoming consultation. | To enable the Ministry to finalise its Third Sector Strategy, underpinning how relationships will be taken forward to improve policies and partnerships between the Department and the third sector. | Due to start shortly and last for a minimum of 12 weeks in keeping with the Government code of practice on consultation. | No. |

### Domestic Violence

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government have taken to reduce re-offending rates of domestic violence offenders. [173716]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government's national delivery plan for domestic violence includes an objective relating to the management of perpetrators to reduce the risk of reoffending. The following steps have been taken to achieve this objective.

Specialist domestic violence courts (SDVCs) place victims at the heart of the criminal justice system through a multi-agency response to domestic violence that affords greater victim safety while bringing perpetrators to account for their offences. We are planning to expand the number of specialist courts from 64 to around 100 SDVCs by April 2008.

The development of three accredited treatment programmes for convicted domestic violence perpetrators: the Integrated Domestic Abuse programme (IDAP) and Community Domestic Violence programme (CDVP) have been rolled out across all probation areas in England and Wales. The Healthy Relationships Programme (HRP) is run by HM Prison Service. These programmes are based on evidence of what is most likely to work in reducing re-offending.

The establishment of multi-agency risk assessment conferences which aim to increase the safety of identified high risk victims through a safety planning approach and to determine whether perpetrators pose a significant future risk.

The continuing support of multi-agency public protection arrangements under which police, probation and prison services in each of the 42 areas in England and Wales work together with social care, health, housing and education services to assess and manage the most serious sexual and violent offenders. Some perpetrators of domestic abuse will be managed under these arrangements.

### Head of the Management Selection and Succession Unit

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the role of the head of management selection and succession unit (MSSU) within HM Prison Service is; what responsibility the head of the MSSU has for making decisions on managed moves within the Service; and if he will make a statement. [173676]

**Maria Eagle:** The role of head of the MSSU in the Prison Service no longer exists. The MSSU, which is based in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, has responsibility for the design and delivery of assessment centres for the recruitment or internal promotion of prison staff. Under changes introduced in September this year, the former head of the MSSU became responsible only for the design of assessments and not for delivery. He plays no part in managed moves within the service, in either his current or his former role.

However, the head of the MSSU reports to the head of resourcing within the HR directorate. The head of resourcing has responsibility for assisting both the operations and HR directors in the career management of senior operational managers. All appointments at this level are made on the direction of the deputy director general.

### Highpoint Prison: Prisoners Escape

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners absconded from Highpoint prison in each of the last six years. [173569]

**Maria Eagle:** Two prisoners have absconded from Highpoint prison during the past six years, in July 2002 and October 2006. Both prisoners were subsequently returned to custody.

### Hollesley Bay Prison: Prisoners Escape

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long each of those prisoners who have absconded from HM Prison Hollesley Bay in the last six years had left to serve of their sentences at the point at which they absconded. [169092]

**Maria Eagle:** The information provided is that held by the establishment and sets out the number of days left to serve at point of abscondence for each of the prisoners who absconded in that year. However the information relates to automatic release dates and a number of those included would have had possible earlier release dates on parole.

Statistics are not available for the year 2002-03. Two prisoners held on immigration warrants and one life-sentenced prisoner also absconded during the period in question but had no fixed release date.

*Number of days left to serve at point of abscond for each of the prisoners who absconded in year specified*

| | Days |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 128 |
| | 401 |
| | 20 |
| | 17 |
| | 172 |
| | 97 |
| | 38 |
| | 31 |
| | 69 |
| | 669 |
| | 833 |
| | 287 |
| | 52 |
| | 21 |
| | 637 |
| | 78 |
| | 76 |
| | 51 |
| | 192 |
| | 222 |
| | 81 |
| | 373 |
| | 542 |
| | 677 |
| | 789 |
| | 979 |
| | 261 |

*Number of days left to serve at point of abscond for each of the prisoners who absconded in year specified*

| | Days |
|---|---|
| | 471 |
| | 209 |
| | 335 |
| | 333 |
| | 184 |
| | 204 |
| | 25 |
| | 61 |
| 2004-05 | 192 |
| | 20 |
| | 93 |
| | 225 |
| | 255 |
| | 375 |
| | 93 |
| | 22 |
| | 20 |
| | 357 |
| | 458 |
| | 708 |
| | 95 |
| | 228 |
| | 27 |
| | 261 |
| | 129 |
| | 114 |
| | 495 |
| | 487 |
| | 522 |
| | 222 |
| | 256 |
| | 120 |
| | 10 |
| | 140 |
| | 9 |
| | 253 |
| | 21 |
| | 18 |
| | 578 |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| 2005-06 | 121 |
| | 389 |
| | 551 |
| | 123 |
| | 87 |
| | 33 |
| | 68 |
| | 312 |
| | 42 |
| | 170 |
| | 675 |
| | 252 |
| | 466 |
| | 282 |
| | 691 |
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| 2006-07 | 163 |
| | 738 |
| | 223 |
| | 408 |
| | 731 |
| | 720 |
| | 546 |
| | 25 |
| | 959 |
| | 10 |
| | 352 |
| | 272 |
| | 228 |
| | 59 |
| | 12 |
| | 319 |
| | 653 |
| | 229 |
| | 325 |
| | 379 |
| | 462 |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |

*Number of days left to serve at point of abscond for each of the prisoners who absconded in year specified*

| | Days |
|---|---|
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| | — |
| 2007-08[1] | 15 |
| | 125 |
| | 499 |
| | 134 |
| | 40 |
| | 210 |
| | 13 |
| | 169 |
| | 131 |
| | 47 |
| | — |
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[1] Figures recorded for 2007-08 are provisional and subject to change.

## Informers

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training is required for the management of informants; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of training provided by HM Prison Service for such management; what legislation governs the provision of such training; and if he will make a statement. [173678]

**Mr. Hanson:** HM Prison Service provides training for staff involved in the management of informants. This is role specific for a handler, controller or authorising officer. The legislation does not require staff to be trained. I have not evaluated the training but HM Prison Service is considering the possibility of obtaining an independent assessment of informant management training.

## Law: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he is considering the merits of establishing a separate legal system for Wales; and if he will make a statement. [174216]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government are committed to enhancing the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales by transferring powers through either framework powers in Westminster Bills or Orders in Council as provided for in the Government of Wales Act 2006. But there is a single legal jurisdiction in England and Wales, and the Government have no plans to change that.

## Legal Services Commission: Information and Communications Technology

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations his Department has received from legal service practitioners on the effectiveness of the Legal Services Commission's new IT system for online reporting of case outcomes and solicitors' claims for costs; and if he will make a statement. [173464]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department has not received any direct representation from legal aid practitioners on this issue since the Legal Services Commission took the decision to close LSC online until further notice. However, the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) has asked three parliamentary questions which were answered on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1260W, and two hon. Members have written on behalf of legal aid solicitors in their constituencies.

## Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Archives

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the archiving of papers of quangos that have been wound up. [174385]

**Mr. Wills:** I am replying as the Minister responsible for The National Archives. The Government's policy on the archiving of records of quangos and other short-lived public record bodies when their work is finished is set out in The National Archives' guidance document, "Discontinued and Transferred Functions". A copy of this is available on the National Archives website:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/stan_discontinued.pdf.

### Offender Assessment System: Expenditure

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the offender assessment system for the Probation Service in England and Wales in each financial year since 2003-04. [173801]

**Maria Eagle:** The expenditure on the offender assessment system OASys) for the National Probation Service for the period April 2001 to March 2004 was £19.6 million. The total spend for both National Probation Service and Her Majesty's Prison Service in each financial year since 2001-02 is shown as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 to 2003-04 | 34.1 |
| 2004-05 | 7.1 |
| 2005-06 | 6.9 |
| 2006-07 | 6.1 |
| 2007-08 | 5.6 |

We cannot separate out prison and probation costs after 2004-05.

### Offenders: Crimes of Violence

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders are awaiting trial for offences of *(a)* murder, *(b)* attempted murder and *(c)* sexual offences allegedly committed while on end of custody licence. [175082]

**Mr. Hanson:** For the period 29 June to 31 October 2007, NOMS has been notified of one offender who is currently awaiting trial for a sexual offence, allegedly committed while on end of custody licence.

### Personal Injury Claims

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he intends to publish the results of the consultation on case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims. [174588]

**Bridget Prentice:** We intend to publish the response to consultation early in the new year. We have received a large number of detailed responses which are currently being analysed. In addition, meetings have been taking place between officials and stakeholders to discuss in more detail some of the issues arising from the consultation.

### Prevention of Corruption Act 1906

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 in each year since 1997. [172524]

**Maria Eagle:** Data showing the number of males and females proceeded against and found guilty under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2006 are in the following table.

*Number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2, 3, 4]*

| | *1997* | | *1998* | | *1999* | | *2000* | | *2001* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Sex* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Male | 11 | 19 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 14 | 18 | 8 | 19 |
| Female | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 11 | 20 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 19 | 8 | 20 |

| | *2002* | | *2003* | | *2004* | | *2005* | | *2006* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Sex* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| Male | 10 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10 |
| Female | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 10 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 10 |

[1] The offence represented in the table is "Corrupt transactions with agents", Section 1 of the 1906 Prevention of Corruption Act.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against; some of the defendants found guilty of the above offence were originally proceeded against under the offence of "Conspiracy to Defraud", Section 12 of the Common Law and Criminal Justice Act 1987.

### Prison Accommodation

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much time is allocated to prison officers to conduct a cell search; and if he will make a statement. [175200]

**Maria Eagle:** The Prison Service national security framework requires prisons to develop local searching strategies, agreed by the governor and area manager. These define the frequency of cell searches conducted in a particular prison based on an assessment of local needs and considerations. The amount of time allocated to cell searches will therefore vary across the prison estate and this information could be collated centrally only at disproportionate cost.

### Prison Service

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 434W, on the Prison Service, whether Paul Baker is the assistant investigator on the investigation being run by Ron Tasker; and if he will make a statement. [173762]

**Maria Eagle:** Paul Baker was the assistant investigator working to Ron Tasker on his investigation.

### Prison Service: Termination of Employment

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W, on Prison Service: termination of employment, how many of the appeals upheld in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 were in the London area. [173727]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information previously provided was obtained from the Civil Service Appeal Board to ensure it was accurate. The board has been asked to confirm the location of the successful appeals and I will write to the hon. Gentleman on receipt of its response.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 552W, on Prison Service: termination of employment; what assessment he has made of the cost of collating this information at HM Prison Service area office level; whether information on the number of HM Prison Service employees dismissed for criminal activity in the last three years is collated in any form within HM Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [173761]

**Mr. Hanson:** In order to provide this information, the HR Directorate would need to ask each area office to contact each of its establishments requesting a manual search of personnel records for each of the last three years. The figures would then need to be checked at area office level and collated centrally. No detailed assessment has been made of the cost of collating this information other than to confirm that it would exceed the current threshold set by the Cabinet Office.

The public-sector Prison Service maintains a central database of disciplinary outcomes, including those in which criminal activity has been found proven. This database is maintained from records provided to the HR Directorate at the conclusion of the internal disciplinary process.

### Prisoners

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what proven or alleged offences offenders were recalled to prison from end of custody licence for reoffending between 29 June 2007 and 31 October 2007. [175081]

**Mr. Hanson:** During the period 29 June to 31 October 2007, 11,132 offenders were released, of whom 119 were recalled from the end of custody licence scheme on allegation of reoffending. This represents 1.07 per cent. being notified to NOMS as having been recalled for allegedly committing a further offence while on the scheme. They were alleged to have committed a total of 170 offences. A breakdown of these alleged offences is in the following table.

| *Alleged offence type* | *Number of alleged offences* |
|---|---|
| Violence against the person | 30 |
| Sexual offences | 1 |
| Burglary | 17 |
| Robbery | 1 |
| Theft and handling | 43 |
| Drug offences | 7 |
| Motoring offences | 13 |
| Other | 58 |

### Prisoner Release: Electronic Tagging

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the pilot project using satellite tracking for prisoners released on licence carried out by Group 4 Securicor; and for what reasons the pilot project was not put into operation more widely. [173966]

**Maria Eagle:** The project using satellite tracking for certain prisoners released on licence and offenders who received exclusion orders from the courts was piloted in three areas between 2004 and 2006, during which 517 offenders were tracked. The satellite tracking service was provided by three suppliers up to March 2005, after which it was provided by Group 4 Securicor (G4S) and Serco Monitoring under new electronic monitoring contracts.

The total cost of the project was £4.75 million. This included the cost of the service provision from G4S, which amounted to £2.39 million.

The pilot project was subject to an independent evaluation by Birmingham university, whose final report was published in August 2007. After consideration of the evaluation report, and the recommendations of a National Offender Management Service working group, there are no current plans to implement the scheme more widely until the technology has been developed further to provide assurance of its capabilities and cost-effectiveness. This issue will be kept under review.

### Prisoners: Employment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans the Prison Service has to make the development of structured work a central part of the national prisons strategy. [173941]

**Maria Eagle:** Providing an appropriate range of purposeful activity for prisoners, including work, is part of the Prison Service's strategy and will continue to be so in future developments. Work for prisoners in prison can be broadly divided into four categories: producing goods for the internal market; undertaking work for external contractors; providing essential services such as catering and laundry; and land-based activities.

### Prisoners: Foreigners

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners are serving sentences of *(a)* less than 12 months and *(b)* 12 months or more. [174906]

**Mr. Hanson:** At the end of October 2007 there were 7,510 foreign national prisoners serving immediate custodial sentences in all prison establishments in England and Wales, of whom 1,000 were serving sentences of less than 12 months, and 6,510 serving sentences of 12 months and over. These figures were rounded to the nearest 10.

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors in data entry and processing.

### Prisoners: Police Custody

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been accommodated in police custody suites in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* Northumbria police area in 2007. [173563]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the total number of occasions on which prisoners have been held in police cells in each police force in the north-east in 2007. This does not correspond directly to the number of prisoners; one occasion is one prisoner night held in a police cell.

| *Police force area* | *Occasions*[1] |
|---|---|
| Cleveland | 12 |
| Durham | 1,083 |
| Northumbria | 1,113 |

[1] To 10 December.

### Prisoners: Self-Mutilation

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are applied by the Prison Service when deciding whether an event is to be reported as a self-harming incident. [173965]

**Maria Eagle:** The Prison Service defines self-harm as any incident in which a prisoner deliberately harms himself irrespective of method, intent or severity of any injury.

Prison Service Order 2700: Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Management instructs that all incidents of self-harm must be reported on incident report forms and an F213SH self-harm form must be completed. Noose/ligature making must also be reported on the F213SH even if no injury has occurred. Information from the F213SH is logged at establishments on the Incident Reporting System (IRS). All incidents in which resuscitation and or transfer to outside hospital as the result of self-harm have been required must also be reported to HMPS National Operations Unit by telephone.

### Prisons

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many on-site monitors there are in each prison in England and Wales. [173964]

**Mr. Hanson:** The 11 establishments within the contracted estate have a controller, who is a Crown servant. Controllers are responsible for monitoring the contract and carry out a number of statutory duties as representatives of the Secretary of State. The three public-sector establishments with which NOMS has a service level agreement, HMP Blakenhurst, HMP Buckley Hall and HMP Manchester, have monitors. They are responsible for monitoring the contract but do not carry out operational duties. However it is not a requirement for controllers, monitors or their teams, to be on-site.

Details of the current number of on-site controllers and monitors, and their staff, are outlined in the following table.

*Controllers'/monitors' teams currently on-site in contracted prison establishments and those with whom NOMS has a service level agreement*

| *Establishment* | *Controller's team* |
|---|---|
| HMP Altcourse | 1 Controller<br>1 Deputy Controller<br>2 Assistants |
| HMP Bronzefield | 1 Controller<br>1 Deputy Controller<br>1 Assistant |
| HMP/YOI Doncaster | 1 Controller<br>2 Assistants |
| HMP Dovegate | 1 Controller<br>1 Deputy Controller<br>2 Assistants |
| HMP Wolds | 1 Controller<br>1 Assistant |
| YOI Ashfield | 1 Controller<br>1 Assistant |
| HMP Forest Bank | 1 Controller<br>1 Deputy Controller |
| HMP Lowdham Grange | 1 Controller<br>1 Deputy Controller<br>1 Assistant |
| HMP/YOI Parc | 1 Controller<br>1 Deputy Controller<br>1 Assistant |
| HMP Peterborough | 1 Controller<br>1 Deputy Controller |
| HMP Rye Hill | 1 Controller<br>1 Deputy Controller |
| HMP Buckley Hall | 1 Monitor<br>1 Assistant |

*Controllers'/monitors' teams currently on-site in contracted prison establishments and those with whom NOMS has a service level agreement*

| *Establishment* | *Controller's team* |
|---|---|
| HMP Blakenhurst | 1 Monitor<br>1 Deputy Monitor |
| HMP Manchester | 1 Monitor<br>2 part-time assistants |

### Probation Officers: Training

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on probation officer training in England and Wales in each financial year since 1997-98. [173805]

**Maria Eagle:** Reliable figures are only available from 2003-04, when the Home Office took over the funding arrangements for the universities. The figures for these years are as follows.

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 51,579,000 |
| 2004-05 | 56,531,000 |
| 2005-06 | 50,819,000 |
| 2006-07 | 38,273,000 |

In addition to these sums, probation areas will identify training needs within their individual areas and fund these from their allocated budgets.

### Probation Service: Expenditure

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on electronic monitors for the probation service in England and Wales in each financial year since 1997-98. [173804]

**Maria Eagle:** Since the start of the electronic monitoring service in England and Wales in January 1999 the cost of the electronic monitoring (EM) of offenders has been met centrally, and is not devolved to the probation service.

Prior to April 2007, data on the breakdown of the cost of the EM service by the agencies using the service were not recorded. However, data have been collected since April 2007 which identify costs of monitoring court-ordered curfew requirements with a probation supervision requirement, and curfew requirements recommended by the probation service for offenders who were sentenced to a single curfew requirement without a probation supervision requirement. In the period from 1 April 2007 to 31 October 2007 this amounted to £20,162,610.

### R v Roland P Wright

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the case of R *v.* Roland P Wright, Case No. T2003/0089 in Aylesbury Crown Court. [174210]

**Maria Eagle:** On 6 May 2003 Roland Peter Wright was committed to Aylesbury Crown Court from Wycombe and Beaconsfield magistrates court. He was indicted on 13 counts of indecent assault on a male person and three counts of indecency with a child. The offences were alleged to have taken place between August 1964 and May 1970. On 25 September 2003 the case was listed for an Abuse of Process hearing. On 26 September the judge determined that the application made on behalf of the defendant should succeed and ordered that the indictment be stayed.

### Witnesses: Children

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government have taken to ease the burden of criminal court proceedings on children who are called as witnesses. [173095]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government have already done much to assist child witnesses in criminal proceedings. We have

introduced special measures such as live links, video-recorded evidence-in-chief, screens around the witness box, giving evidence in private and intermediaries. An independent evaluation in 2004 found that 76 per cent. of child witnesses were satisfied with special measures;

reformed the law on competence to provide a presumption that all witnesses are deemed to be competent;

given £30 million annually to Victim Support, who provide the Witness Service in every court;

introduced a statutory Code of Practice to give victims, including children, legal rights for the first time;

spent £2.75 million on new court live link systems to help witnesses give evidence since 2006;

met the target of having separate waiting facilities for prosecution witnesses in 90 per cent. of magistrates courts ahead of schedule;

on 31 October, issued updated practitioner guidance on interviewing vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, including children.

In June the Government issued a Consultation Paper, "Improving the Criminal Trial Process for Young Witnesses", which looked at further ways of helping young witnesses give evidence, including more choice regarding special measures. We intend to publish a response to this consultation next year.

### Witnesses: Protection

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost of running the witness protection programme was in the last 12 months; [172834]

(2) how many UK citizens are in witness protection programmes; and how many have been in programmes in each of the last 10 years. [172835]

**Maria Eagle:** Witness protection programmes are one of a number of measures taken by police forces to support witnesses. A review of national provision in 2004 estimated that such programmes cost in the region of £22 million per annum. However, because of the operational sensitivity of this area of work, details of the programmes and witnesses assisted cannot be disclosed.

## Young Offenders: Sentencing

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the extent to which issues of parenting have been considered in pre-sentence reviews used in youth courts, as referred to in the Respect Action Plan. [173854]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Respect Action Plan called for the inclusion of parenting assessment in all pre-sentence reports submitted to the magistrates youth court. In the majority of cases, youth offending teams will include an assessment of parenting within a pre-sentence report as standard practice.

The Youth Justice Board will be reinforcing the importance of parenting assessment through current work that will update 'National Standards'. The revised 'National Standards', due to come on stream in 2009, will ensure that all pre-sentence reports include an assessment of the need for parenting support.

I am confident that these measures will ensure that we meet the expectations contained in the Respect Action Plan.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 17 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### Banking

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations were made to his Department by the Bank of England on *(a)* changing the system of bank deposit insurance and *(b)* strengthening the procedure for pre-emptive intervention in failing financial institutions between January 2005 and October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [171924]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Treasury, FSA and Bank of England have held regular discussions about issues relating to financial stability, including bank deposit insurance and procedures for pre-emptive interventions in failing financial institutions throughout this period.

Work on this contributed to the discussion paper "Banking Reform—Protecting Depositors: a Discussion Paper" published in October 2007.

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether staff authorised to access the full child benefit database are subject to criminal record checks. [167676]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the computer discs which went missing from the Newcastle HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office; what steps his Department has taken to advise the public on the loss of the discs and their personal details being compromised; and what steps he is taking to ensure that personal data is held securely by HMRC. [167970]

**Jane Kennedy:** My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has received a number of representations on the computer discs which went missing from the Newcastle HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office.

The acting chairman of HM Revenue and Customs has written to all customers affected by the loss of child benefit data and a copy of the letter is available on the HMRC internet at:

> http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/childbenefit/customer-update-letter.htm

On 13 November HMRC initiated immediate increased security with a new process:

> transfers will now only take place if they are absolutely necessary;
>
> written authorisation for the transfer has to be given by senior HMRC manager; and,
>
> a clear instruction has been given regarding the appropriate standard of protection for the transfer.

Where directors decide that a data transfer by disc is unavoidable such media must, in every case, be securely encrypted at the appropriate level.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

I also refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on the completion of the review.

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* value of tax credit payments erroneously made to a perpetrator of identity theft in the last 12 months. [168055]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to paragraph 2.26 of HM Revenue and Customs Standard Report for 2006-07.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what technical protections have been in place in HM Revenue and Customs child benefit office in 2007 to date to prevent unauthorised personnel downloading confidential information to disc. [168246]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

> <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom and speeches/press/2007/press 133 07.cfm>

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many fields there are in the HM Revenue and Customs child benefit database; and how many of these contain data which were recently requested by the National Audit Office; [169001]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of extracting the information requested by the National Audit Office from the HM Revenue and Customs child benefit database. [169003]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what purposes the National Audit Office (NAO) required a complete list of child benefit recipients; and what categories of data were *(a)* on the database and *(b)* requested by the NAO. [169104]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Audit Office requested data as part of its preparations for its 2007-08 audit of HM Revenue and Customs' Resource Account, which records the annual expenditure on child benefit.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a reward has *(a)* been offered and *(b)* been proposed for the finder of the two compact discs containing confidential child benefit information; and if he will make a statement. [169314]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: A reward of £20,000 has been offered by HMRC for information leading to the return of the missing data.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps *(a)* he has taken and *(b)* he plans to take to alleviate the concerns of child benefit recipients resident in Southend West constituency whose data was lost by HM Revenue and Customs on possible (i) identity fraud and (ii) criminal use of bank or building society account details; what recent representations he has received from members of the public about the loss; and if he will make a statement. [169423]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the password to access the child benefit information was contained in the same package as the discs containing the data provided by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to the National Audit Office on each of the occasions that discs were sent; what the policy is of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HMRC on the sending of such passwords in the post; and if he will make a statement. [169428]

**Jane Kennedy:** It would be inappropriate to disclose the information requested as there is an on-going police investigation.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer further to his statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1101, on HM Revenue and Customs, when *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior civil servants were first informed of the breach of security procedures that took place in March. [168786]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 17 November 2007]*: It would be inappropriate to comment at this time as there is an ongoing police investigation. On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many of the individuals' records missing in the transfer of information from HM Revenues and Customs national insurance numbers were recorded. [168458]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: The missing information contains details of child benefit records for 25 million individuals including 9.5 million adult claimants. The records of these claimants include national insurance records.

## Children: Poverty

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to meet the *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2020 child poverty targets; and if he will make a statement. [172089]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Treasury contributes to the strategy for halving and eradicating child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Review, published alongside the 2004 Spending Review White Paper (Cm 6237). Across the UK, these measures have helped lift 600,000 children out of poverty since 1998-99.

The Government have reaffirmed their commitment to the PSA goal of halving child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020. Alongside the CSR, the Government published a Delivery Agreement, which outlines how central Government will work with delivery partners to meet these ambitious targets.

The Treasury will continue to review financial support for families with children at future Budgets and pre-Budget reports, in the usual way. As a result of financial support measures announced in this year's Budget and pre-Budget report, 300,000 children will be lifted out of poverty.

The Treasury will continue to work closely with other Government Departments to deliver public services to help improve the lives and life chances of all children.

### Council of Economic Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of the Council of Economic Advisers there were in each month since January; and if he will make a statement. [173180]

**Angela Eagle:** There were five members of the Council of Economic Advisers in January 2007 as set out in the answer given on (0509W 2006-07). An additional member was appointed in February 2007 as set out in the answer given on (2386W 2006-07). From June 2007 the Council had one member as set out in the answer given on (4448W 2006-07) and the written statement made by the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007. Since the end of November the Council has had two members as set out in the Treasury Press Notice of 30 November.

### Customs Officers: Manpower

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many (*a*) full- and (*b*) part-time customs officers HM Revenue and Customs employed in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [174525]

**Jane Kennedy:** The numbers of (*a*) full and (*b*) part-time staff employed by HM Customs and Excise at 1 April 2000 to 1 April 2005 are shown in the following table, as are those employed by HM Revenue and Customs since 1 April 2006. After 1 April 2005, no statistics are available for HM Customs and Excise as a separate Department.

| *As at 1 April each year* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 21,000 | 2,050 |
| 2001 | 20,960 | 2,160 |
| 2002 | 20,640 | 2,250 |
| 2003 | 20,940 | 2,370 |
| 2004 | 21,336 | 2,523 |
| 2005 | 21,508 | 2,776 |
| 2006 | 76,533 | 24,205 |
| 2007 | 72,880 | 23,631 |

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many (*a*) permanent and (*b*) temporary customs officers HM Revenue and Customs employed in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [174564]

**Jane Kennedy:** The numbers of (*a*) permanent and (*b*) temporary staff employed by HM Customs and Excise at 1 April 2000 to 1 April 2005 are shown in the following table, as are those employed by HM Revenue and Customs since 1 April 2006. After 1 April 2005, no statistics are available for HM Customs and Excise as a separate Department.

| *As at 1 April each year* | *Permanent* | *Temporary* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 22,640 | 410 |
| 2001 | 22,440 | 680 |
| 2002 | 22,560 | 330 |
| 2003 | 22,950 | 360 |
| 2004 | 23,491 | 368 |
| 2005 | 23,790 | 494 |
| 2006 | 99,508 | 1,230 |
| 2007 | 95,412 | 1,099 |

### Customs Officers: Recruitment

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on employing customs officers in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [174523]

**Jane Kennedy:** There is no separate group of staff identified as "customs officers". The staff costs for the former Customs and Excise are shown in the following table for 2000-01 to 2004-05.

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 599,744 |
| 2001-02 | 623,678 |
| 2002-03 | 651,160 |
| 2003-04 | 688,440 |
| 2004-05 | 728,444 |

Following the merger with the former Inland Revenue, the total staff costs for HM Revenue and Customs (but excluding the Valuation Office Agency) for 2005-06 and 2006-07 were as follows:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 2,655,374 |
| 2006-07 | 2,701,800 |

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers were recruited by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [174524]

**Jane Kennedy:** The numbers of staff recruited by HM Customs and Excise yearly between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2005 are shown in the following table, as are the numbers of staff recruited by HM Revenue and Customs since 1 April 2005. After 1 April 2005, no statistics are available for HM Customs and Excise as a separate Department.

| | *Entrants* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 1,272 |
| 2001-02 | 995 |
| 2002-03 | 1,394 |
| 2003-04 | 1,344 |

| | Entrants |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,341 |
| 2005-06 | 6,586 |
| 2006-07 | 5,725 |

### Data Protection: Complaints

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints HM Revenue and Customs have received in the last 12 months from tax credit claimants claiming they have been victims of identity theft. [168052]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1516W.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of disks containing data protected by the Data Protection Act 1998 that have been sent to other agencies of his Department in the last two years, broken down by *(a)* mode and classification of delivery and *(b)* carrier. [168789]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* This information is not available and could be collated only at a disproportionate cost.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Employment

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK nationals in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time work in the UK in each year since 1997. [173916]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 17 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number and proportion of UK and non-UK nationals in full-time and part-time work in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (173916)

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

The attached table gives the number and proportion of UK and non-UK born people of working age in full-time and part-time employment for the three month period ending June each year, from 1998 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Working age population[1], in full-time and part-time employment and in employment rate[2], by country of birth—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted, April-June 1997 to 2007*

*Thousand, except where indicated*

| | | UK total[3] | | UK-born | | Foreign born | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Level | Percentage | Level | Percentage | Level | Percentage |
| 1997 | Full-Time | 19,419 | 76 | 17,944 | 76 | 1,474 | 77 |
| | Part-Time | 6,121 | 24 | 5,692 | 24 | 429 | 23 |
| | In Employment[4] | 25,544 | 100 | 23,638 | 100 | 1,904 | 100 |
| 1999 | Full-Time | 19,829 | 76 | 18,273 | 76 | 1,555 | 78 |
| | Part-Time | 6,226 | 24 | 5,779 | 24 | 447 | 22 |
| | In Employment[4] | 26,060 | 100 | 24,056 | 100 | 2,003 | 100 |
| 2001 | Full-Time | 20,211 | 76 | 18,507 | 76 | 1,699 | 78 |
| | Part-Time | 6,387 | 24 | 5,916 | 24 | 469 | 22 |
| | In Employment[4] | 26,607 | 100 | 24,431 | 100 | 2,169 | 100 |
| 2002 | Full-Time | 20,231 | 76 | 18,440 | 75 | 1,789 | 78 |
| | Part-Time | 6,492 | 24 | 5,976 | 24 | 515 | 22 |
| | In Employment[4] | 26,735 | 100 | 24,426 | 100 | 2,305 | 100 |

*Working age population[1], in full-time and part-time employment and in employment rate[2], by country of birth—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted, April-June 1997 to 2007*

*Thousand, except where indicated*

| | | *UK total[3]* | | *UK-born* | | *Foreign born* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Level* | *Percentage* | *Level* | *Percentage* | *Level* | *Percentage* |
| 2003 | Full-Time | 20,317 | 75 | 18,386 | 75 | 1,931 | 78 |
| | Part-Time | 6,603 | 25 | 6,077 | 25 | 525 | 21 |
| | In Employment[4] | 26,935 | 100 | 24,473 | 100 | 2,460 | 100 |
| 2004 | Full-Time | 20,383 | 75 | 18,385 | 75 | 1,998 | 79 |
| | Part-Time | 6,619 | 25 | 6,075 | 25 | 544 | 21 |
| | In Employment[4] | 27,015 | 100 | 24,471 | 100 | 2,544 | 100 |
| 2005 | Full-Time | 20,569 | 76 | 18,448 | 75 | 2,116 | 79 |
| | Part-Time | 6,557 | 24 | 5,988 | 24 | 569 | 21 |
| | In Employment[4] | 27,136 | 100 | 24,444 | 100 | 2,687 | 100 |
| 2006 | Full-Time | 20,687 | 76 | 18,311 | 76 | 2,375 | 79 |
| | Part-Time | 6,489 | 24 | 5,857 | 24 | 632 | 21 |
| | In Employment[4] | 27,187 | 100 | 24,177 | 100 | 3,009 | 100 |
| 2007 | Full-Time | 20,725 | 76 | 18,123 | 76 | 2,596 | 79 |
| | Part-Time | 6,485 | 24 | 5,813 | 24 | 670 | 20 |
| | In Employment[4] | 27,226 | 100 | 23,948 | 100 | 3,269 | 100 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59

[2] Number of people in employment of working age as a percentage of all persons of working age

[3] Includes those who did not state their country of birth

[4] Includes those who did not state whether they were full-time or part-time it should be noted that the above estimates:
exclude certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than 6 months
exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent
exclude people in most types of communal establishment (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc)
are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more
are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics monthly First Release.

*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to introduce duty increases on alcohol prior to the next Budget statement. [174828]

**Angela Eagle:** Decisions on increases in alcohol duty rates are made by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

### Freight: Roads

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to introduce a cabotage scheme for UK road use by overseas freight operators. [174136]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

Cabotage by EU hauliers in the UK is currently allowed under EU law provided operations are conducted on a temporary basis. The Department for Transport published a statement on its website in August 2006 which provides further details.

The Department is currently consulting on a package of three proposed EU road transport Regulations published by the European Commission in May 2007, one of which proposes a new definition of cabotage. The consultation period closes on 29 February 2008. The Consultation Document is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/euroadtransportproposals/.

### Fuel Poverty: Eastern Region

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the East of England region were classified as living in fuel poverty in each of the last five years. [173456]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

Regional estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003 and are taken from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset, available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

This shows that there were approximately 18,000 fuel poor households in Suffolk and 124,000 fuel poor household in the East of England.

### Gift Aid

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect on levels of revenue from Gift Aid for UK charities arising from changes in the basic rate of income tax. [174505]

**Jane Kennedy:** The precise impact on charities income will depend on the behavioural changes to the recent tax changes of both donors and charities. The strong upward trend in Gift Aid is however expected to result in consistent year-on-year growth in charities' income from Gift Aid, including in the year 2008-09.

### Health in Pregnancy Grant

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons benefits in pregnancy are to be provided through the Health in Pregnancy Grant; and if he will make a statement. [174328]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government are introducing the Health in Pregnancy Grant from April 2009 as a one-off payment to expectant mothers to help them during the important last weeks of pregnancy. It will provide flexible financial support as a one-off payment, and will be payable per pregnancy. This recognizes the additional costs involved during pregnancy and in the run up to birth.

### Job Creation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new jobs have been created in the UK since 1997. [174394]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 17 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question regarding the number of new jobs created since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (174394)

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in employment from year to year.

According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), employment in the UK, among all those aged 16 and over, has increased by 2.8 million between the second quarter of 1997 and the period August-October 2007, the latest for which figures are available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

### Life Expectancy

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average UK life expectancy is; and what the average life expectancy is for residents of mining communities. [174654]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 17 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average UK life expectancy is; and what the average life expectancy is on residents of mining communities. I am replying in her absence. (174654)

Period life expectancy at birth[1] in the United Kingdom, for 2004-06[2] (the latest period available), was 77 years for males, and 81 years for females.

Life expectancy figures for residents of mining communities specifically are not available. Period life expectancies at birth for local authorities in England and Wales are published annually by ONS, and are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Three year rolling averages, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

### Members: Correspondence

**John Penrose:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter of 21 August from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare. [171875]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have done so and apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter of 28 August from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on Mrs. Leslie of Peterhead. [174453]

**Kitty Ussher:** My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has now replied to the hon. Member.

### Mortgages: Repossession Orders

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many home repossessions there were in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years; [174446]

(2) what discussions he has had with banks on preparation of a safety net to prevent home repossessions. [174447]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government do not hold these figures. The Ministry of Justice publishes figures for the numbers of possession orders made by county courts, which are presented in the following table.

*Number of mortgage possession orders: 2002-2005*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England and Wales | 41,759 | 41,038 | 46,683 | 70,964 | 90,660 |
| Lancashire | 1,932 | 1,490 | 1,337 | 1,865 | 2,612 |

*Number of landlord possession orders: 2002-2005*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England and Wales | 1,2155 | 12,0694 | 11,7786 | 11,869 | 10,6968 |
| Lancashire | 3,324 | 2,741 | 2,504 | 2,292 | 1,976 |

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes the total numbers of properties taken into possession, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics.

The Government provide assistance for homeowners facing financial difficulties through the provision of face-to-face debt advice. In addition, the Thoresen review is also considering options aimed at giving consumers greater access to generic financial advice, and will publish its final report next year.

The Government also provide targeted financial support available through DWP's Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI).

The Government meet with a wide range of stakeholders, including the mortgage industry, and is in discussion with industry to identify how they can assist those experiencing difficulty.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of economic activity was accounted for by public sector spending in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Northern Ireland, *(e)* England and *(f)* each English region in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [174148]

**Andy Burnham:** Estimates of gross value added by country and region are published by the ONS. Data are available in the ONS Regional Trends publication. Data on identifiable public spending by country and region are available in the Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Cm 7091) published in April 2007.

### Public Sector: Manpower

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the population were employed by the public sector in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Northern Ireland, *(e)* England and *(f)* each English region in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [174146]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 17 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the proportion of the population employed in the public sector in countries and regions of the UK. I am replying in her absence. (174146)

The latest analysis of UK public sector employment by region and country of workplace was included in an article in 'Economic and Labour Market Review' Vol 1 No. 3 March 2007 (pages 17 to 23), a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. This is also available via the following link.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/03_07/downloads/ELMR_Mar07.pdf

The second part of table 1 on page 22 includes proportions in the form requested from 1999 (the earliest available) to 2006.

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs have packaged personal data on disc along with the access passwords for transportation in 2007. [169101]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

### Tax Allowances: Electric Vehicles

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allow electronic vehicles transporting goods to be given the same tax relief that businesses are given for electronic cars. [173775]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* All vehicles with zero tail pipe carbon emissions are exempt from VED.

Expenditure on plant and machinery, including electric vehicles for transporting goods, will be eligible for the new annual investment allowance of £50,000 from April 2008. This new allowance will be available to all businesses, but will be of particular benefit to smaller businesses.

Cars, including electric cars, are also plant and machinery, but are subject to special rules. For example, expenditure on cars with low carbon dioxide emissions (below 120 grams per kilometre) currently qualify for a 100 per cent. first year allowance. The Government announced at the PBR that they are currently considering options for the taxation of business cars and there will be further announcements on cars at Budget 2008.

The Government keep all taxes under review.

### Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs repays overpaid money that is recovered from tax credit claimants whose initial complaint was rejected but who later had their case upheld by HM Revenue and Customs, the Adjudicator or the Parliamentary Ombudsman. [173586]

**Jane Kennedy:** If a customer has paid back any part of a tax credits overpayment that is later written off, HM Revenue and Customs will refund that amount or off set it against any other recoverable tax credits debt for the same claim in another year.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the value of tax credit overpayments recovered has been from claimants whose initial complaint was rejected but who have had their case upheld by HM Revenue and Customs, the Adjudicator or the Parliamentary Ombudsman in the last three years; [173587]

(2) how many tax credit claimants from whom overpayments have been recovered after an initial complaint was rejected have later had their case upheld by HM Revenue and Customs, the Adjudicator or the Parliamentary Ombudsman in the last three years. [173588]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available in the format requested.

The independent Adjudicator's annual report for 2007 is available at:

http://www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/pdf/report2007.pdf

and the Parliamentary Ombudsman published her special report on tax credits on 8 October 2007. It is available at:

http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/pdfs/tax_credits_07.pdf

## Temporary Employment

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK nationals in temporary work in the UK in each year since 1997. [173917]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 17 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of people of (a) UK and (b) non-UK nationals in temporary work in the UK each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (173917)

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

The attached table gives the number of working age temporary employees for the categories requested for the three month period ending June each year, from 1997 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*People of working age[1] in temporary employment by country of birth, three months ending June, 1997-2007, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand*

| *Temporary employees* | *Total[2]* | *Foreign-born* | *UK-born* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,664 | 182 | 1,482 |
| 1999 | 1,534 | 182 | 1,352 |
| 2001 | 1,571 | 237 | 1,334 |
| 2002 | 1,438 | 193 | 1,244 |
| 2003 | 1,334 | 202 | 1,133 |
| 2004 | 1,340 | 211 | 1,129 |
| 2005 | 1,288 | 225 | 1,064 |
| 2006 | 1,289 | 265 | 1,024 |
| 2007 | 1,338 | 247 | 1,091 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59

[2] Includes those who did not state their country of birth It should be noted that the above estimates:
exclude certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than 6 months
exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent
exclude people in most types of communal establishment (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more
are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics monthly First Release.

*Note:*
Comparable data are not available for 1998 and 2000

*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## Welfare Tax Credits: Yorkshire and Humber

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of working-age adults in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber were in receipt of tax credits in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [174299]

**Jane Kennedy:** Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. Geographical Analysis" for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. These publications and provisional estimates for the number of families, by constituency, with tax credit awards as at selected dates in 2006-07 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Estimates of child and working tax credit take-up rates for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are available on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm. Take-up rates for working families with children at country and regional level are shown in table 9. Take-up rate estimates are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

# COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Infrastructure Commission: Public Appointments

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to consult her counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government when appointing the chair and deputy chairs of the Infrastructure Commission as detailed in Schedule 1 of the Planning Bill 2007. [172996]

**John Healey:** The Secretary of State will appoint the chair and deputy chairs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission through an open and transparent appointment process. As we said in the White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (CM 7120) the Secretary of State will appoint two or three commissioners on the advice of the Welsh Assembly Government, reflecting the role of the commission in determining nationally significant energy infrastructure projects in Wales.

### Casinos

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what external advisers have been contracted to assist the review of super-casinos. [171651]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 554-55W.

### Coalfields Regeneration Trust: Finance

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to fund the Coalfields Regeneration Trust beyond April 2008. [174650]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Coalfields Regeneration Trust's current funding agreement for England continues until March 2008. A recent independent evaluation of the CLG coalfield programmes provided strong evidence of the trust's positive impact on our former coalfield communities. In view of the trust's continued good performance, provision has been made for the continuation of the trust's funding. £52.95 million has been allocated for the three years to March 2011.

### Cohesion Guidance for Funders

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the new Cohesion Guidance for Funders referred to in her letter of 6 October 2007 to the Chair of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [173928]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government will publish Cohesion Guidance for Funders in the new year. We will continue to keep Parliament informed.

### Community Development

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to provide the new teams to support local areas experiencing particularly rapid change mentioned in her letter of 6 October 2007 to the Chairman of the Commission on Cohesion and Integration; what support these new teams will offer; how many people they will comprise; and what new funding will be provided to these teams. [173943]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The detailed proposals for these teams are currently under development. Following my right hon. Friend's response of 6 October to the Commission on Integration and Commission report, we plan to make a more detailed response in January.

### Council Housing: Debts

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what allowance was made for debt service charges in the housing revenue account subsidy system for each local authority which has incurred council housing debt in each year since 2000. [165545]

**Yvette Cooper:** A table showing the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy debt service charges element of HRA subsidy for each authority recording debt in its HRA for each year from 2000-01 to 2005-06 (the last year for which we have audited data) has been deposited in the Library of the House.

### Council Tax

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have been subject to capping since 2000; and what the percentage changes in council tax were that brought in capping measures. [172952]

**John Healey:** No capping action was undertaken between 1999-2000 and 2003-04 inclusive. Since 2004-05, 25 authorities have been subjected to capping action.

For details I refer the hon. Member to the following statements made by previous local government Ministers:

29 April 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1019-21;

23 March 2005, *Official Report*, columns 883-4; and

27 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 567-9.

### Council Tax: Empty Properties

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review or amend the council tax discount on empty homes. [173223]

**John Healey:** The Government announced in their pre-Budget report that they will work with local authorities and other interested parties to assess the effect that the discretionary power to vary the council tax discount on long-term empty properties has had since its introduction in 2004, with the aim of identifying further options for reform in this area if there is evidence that it will improve access to housing.

### Council Tax: Greater London

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what precepts were levied on London council tax bills in 1997-98, other than the London Borough precept, the London Fire precept and the Metropolitan Police/City of London Police precept. [171717]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 539-40W.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has the power to cap the council tax precept of the Mayor of London; and if she will make a statement. [172954]

**John Healey:** Capping legislation covers the Greater London Authority as well as local authorities, fire authorities and police authorities.

## Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of public satisfaction was with local authority waste collection services in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local waste collection authority in each year for which Best Value Performance Indicator data on these measures have been collated by the Audit Commission. [171578]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA does not carry out monitoring on public satisfaction with waste services. Under the present local government performance framework, it is the responsibility of local authorities to carry out a satisfaction survey every three years as part of the best value performance indicators. Further information about these indicators is available from the local government performance website at www.bvpi.gov.uk

## Greenbelt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local planning authorities have land in their area with green belt status; and what the average area of green belt land is per local authority. [171572]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table lists local planning authorities in England with green belt status and the extent of green belt land in their area in 2006, the latest year for which data are available.

*Local authority area and extent of green belt land: 2006*

| | | *Extent of green belt land* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Mean high water (Hectares)* | *Hectares* | *Percentage* |
| Amber Valley | 26,538 | 8,620 | 32.48 |
| Ashfield | 10,956 | 4,520 | 41.26 |
| Aylesbury Vale | 90,275 | 4,800 | 5.32 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,609 | 440 | 12.9 |
| Barnet | 8,674 | 2,466 | 28.43 |
| Barnsley | 32,905 | 23,030 | 69.99 |
| Basildon | 11,003 | 6,960 | 63.26 |
| Bath and North East Somerset UA | 35,112 | 21,440 | 61.06 |
| Bexley | 6,056 | 1,120 | 18.49 |
| Birmingham | 26,779 | 4,173 | 15.58 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 13,701 | 5,570 | 40.65 |
| Blackpool UA | 3,492 | 60 | 1.72 |
| Blyth Valley | 7,036 | 2,890 | 41.07 |
| Bolsover | 16,033 | 1,100 | 6.86 |
| Bolton | 13,980 | 7,270 | 52.00 |
| Bournemouth UA | 4,618 | 730 | 15.81 |
| Bracknell Forest | 10,938 | 3,850 | 35.20 |
| Bradford | 36,642 | 23,890 | 65.20 |
| Brentwood | 15,312 | 13,750 | 89.80 |
| Bridgnorth | 63,317 | 24,490 | 38.68 |
| Bromley | 15,014 | 7,710 | 51.35 |
| Bromsgrove | 21,697 | 19,480 | 89.78 |
| Broxbourne | 5,143 | 3,310 | 64.35 |
| Broxtowe | 8,010 | 5,150 | 64.30 |
| Burnley | 11,070 | 1,060 | 9.58 |
| Bury | 9,948 | 5,930 | 59.61 |
| Calderdale | 36,392 | 22,820 | 62.71 |
| Cambridge | 4,070 | 962 | 23.64 |
| Cannock Chase | 7,888 | 4,840 | 61.36 |
| Castle Morpeth | 61,823 | 12,210 | 19.75 |
| Castle Point | 4,507 | 2,750 | 61.01 |
| Chelmsford | 34,225 | 12,890 | 37.66 |
| Cheltenham | 4,663 | 810 | 17.37 |
| Cherwell | 58,876 | 8,410 | 14.28 |
| Chester | 44,804 | 18,520 | 41.34 |
| Chesterfield | 6,604 | 1,430 | 21.66 |
| Chester-le-Street | 6,758 | 2,770 | 40.99 |
| Chiltern | 19,635 | 17,370 | 88.47 |
| Chorley | 20,280 | 14,570 | 71.85 |
| Christchurch | 5,133 | 3,470 | 67.60 |
| City and County of Bristol DA | 10,961 | 610 | 5.57 |
| City of York UA | 27,194 | 22,340 | 82.15 |
| Congleton | 21,099 | 5,290 | 25.07 |
| Cotswold | 116,452 | 110 | 0.09 |
| Coventry | 9,865 | 3,000 | 30.41 |
| Crewe and Nantwich | 43,041 | 1,250 | 2.90 |
| Croydon | 8,652 | 2,310 | 26.70 |
| Dacorum | 21,248 | 10,690 | 50.31 |
| Dartford | 7,276 | 4,110 | 56.48 |
| Derby UA | 7,803 | 250 | 3.20 |
| Doncaster | 56,800 | 23,220 | 40.88 |
| Dudley | 9,797 | 1,770 | 18.07 |
| Durham | 18,668 | 5,690 | 30.48 |
| Ealing | 5,552 | 330 | 5.94 |
| Easington | 14,459 | 280 | 1.94 |
| East Cambridgeshire | 65,128 | 1,910 | 2.93 |
| East Dorset | 35,442 | 16,880 | 47.63 |
| East Hertfordshire | 47,569 | 17,460 | 36.70 |
| East Staffordshire | 39,000 | 40 | 0.10 |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | 8,841 | 3,450 | 39.02 |
| Elmbridge | 9,634 | 5,610 | 58.23 |
| Enfield | 8,220 | 3,010 | 36.62 |
| Epping Forest | 33,899 | 31,680 | 93.46 |

*Local authority area and extent of green belt land: 2006*

| Local authority | Mean high water (Hectares) | Extent of green belt land: Hectares | Extent of green belt land: Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Epsom and Ewell | 3,407 | 1,560 | 45.78 |
| Erewash | 10,963 | 7,850 | 71.60 |
| Fylde | 16,553 | 1,790 | 10.81 |
| Gateshead | 14,236 | 8,680 | 60.97 |
| Gedling | 11,997 | 9,020 | 75.18 |
| Gravesham | 9,902 | 7,660 | 77.36 |
| Greenwich | 4,734 | | 0.00 |
| Guildford | 27,093 | 24,110 | 88.99 |
| Halton UA | 7,909 | 2,550 | 32.24 |
| Hambleton | 131,117 | 1,520 | 1.16 |
| Haringey | 2,959 | 60 | 2.03 |
| Harlow | 3,054 | 630 | 20.63 |
| Harrogate | 130,913 | 14,450 | 11.04 |
| Harrow | 5,047 | 1,090 | 21.60 |
| Havering | 11,236 | 6,020 | 53.58 |
| Hertsmere | 10,116 | 8,040 | 79.48 |
| High Peak | 54,025 | 4,000 | 7.40 |
| Hillingdon | 11,570 | 4,960 | 42.87 |
| Hounslow | 5,599 | 1,220 | 21.79 |
| Hyndburn | 7,299 | 4,120 | 56.44 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,725 | 640 | 17.18 |
| Kirklees | 40,860 | 25,510 | 62.43 |
| Knowsley | 8,647 | 4,660 | 53.89 |
| Lancaster | 57,585 | 1,730 | 3.00 |
| Leeds | 55,173 | 34,380 | 62.31 |
| Lichfield | 33,130 | 15,220 | 45.94 |
| Liverpool | 11,415 | 540 | 4.73 |
| Luton UA | 4,335 | 140 | 3.23 |
| Macclesfield | 52,498 | 34,080 | 64.92 |
| Maidstone | 39,333 | 530 | 135 |
| Manchester | 11,565 | 1,710 | 14.79 |
| Medway UA | 19,203 | 1,340 | 6.98 |
| Mendip | 73,944 | 850 | 1.15 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 50,285 | 9,490 | 18.87 |
| Mid Sussex | 33,403 | 20 | 0.06 |
| Mole Valley | 25,832 | 19,660 | 76.11 |
| New Forest DC | 75,329 | 4,830 | 6.41 |
| Newark and Sherwood | 65,132 | 6,280 | 9.64 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme | 21,096 | 9,420 | 44.65 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 11,355 | 4,390 | 38.66 |
| Newham | 3,621 | 80 | 2.21 |
| North East Derbyshire | 27,561 | 10,340 | 37.52 |
| North Hertfordshire | 37,537 | 14,060 | 37.46 |
| North Somerset UA | 37,468 | 15,480 | 41.32 |
| North Tyneside | 8,247 | 1,660 | 20.13 |
| North Warwickshire | 28,427 | 17,480 | 61.49 |
| North Wiltshire | 76,767 | 1,800 | 2.34 |
| Nottingham | 7,461 | 750 | 10.05 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | 7,895 | 3,793 | 48.04 |
| Oldham | 14,235 | 6,260 | 43.98 |
| Oxford | 4,561 | 1,300 | 28.50 |
| Pendle | 16,936 | 2,070 | 12.22 |
| Poole UA | 30,370 | 1,900 | 6.26 |
| Preston | 6,475 | 660 | 10.19 |
| Pubic | 14,229 | 7,300 | 51.30 |
| Redbridge | 40,442 | 2,070 | 5.12 |
| Redditch | 5,425 | 1,830 | 33.73 |
| Reigate and Banstead | 12,913 | 8,800 | 68.15 |
| Ribble Valley | 58,447 | 1,720 | 2.94 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 5,741 | 140 | 2.44 |
| Rochdale | 15,808 | 9,920 | 62.75 |
| Rochford | 16,950 | 12,770 | 75.34 |
| Rossendale | 13,805 | 3,130 | 22.67 |
| Rotherham | 28,653 | 20,650 | 72.07 |
| Rugby | 35,356 | 20,680 | 58.49 |
| Runnymede | 7,804 | 6,140 | 78.67 |
| Rushcliffe | 40,924 | 17,200 | 42.03 |
| Ryedale | 150,659 | 860 | 0.57 |
| Salford | 9,719 | 3,370 | 34.67 |
| Sandwell | 8,556 | 820 | 9.58 |
| Sefton | 15,314 | 7,840 | 51.20 |
| Selby | 59,931 | 19,240 | 32.10 |
| Sevenoaks | 37,035 | 34,380 | 92.83 |
| Sheffield | 36,795 | 9,130 | 24.81 |
| Slough | 3,254 | 830 | 25.50 |
| Solihull | 17,829 | 11,930 | 66.91 |
| South Bedfordshire | 21,282 | 18,720 | 87.96 |
| South Bucks | 14,127 | 12,220 | 86.50 |
| South Cambridgeshire | 90,163 | 23,430 | 25.99 |
| South Derbyshire | 33,812 | 2,390 | 7.07 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 49,695 | 23,230 | 46.75 |
| South Oxfordshire | 67,854 | 15,360 | 22.64 |
| South Ribble | 11,296 | 7,730 | 68.43 |
| South Staffordshire | 40,732 | 32,310 | 79.32 |
| South Tyneside | 6,493 | 2,410 | 37.12 |
| Southend-on-Sea UA | 4,176 | 640 | 15.33 |
| Spelthorne | 5,116 | 3,320 | 64.90 |
| St. Albans | 16,118 | 13,100 | 81.28 |
| St. Helens | 13,639 | 8,880 | 65.11 |
| Stratford | 59,817 | 11,140 | 18.62 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | 57,585 | 17,430 | 30.27 |
| Stevenage | 2,596 | 360 | 13.87 |
| Stockport | 12,605 | 5,840 | 46.33 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 9,345 | 1,790 | 19.15 |
| Stratford-on-Avon | 97,787 | 22,380 | 22.89 |
| Sunderland | 13,766 | 3,490 | 25.35 |

*Local authority area and extent of green belt land[1] 2006*

| | | Extent of green belt land | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Local authority | Mean high water (Hectares) | Hectares | Percentage |
| Surrey Heath | 9,509 | 4,200 | 44.17 |
| Sutton | 4,385 | 620 | 14.14 |
| Tameside | 10,319 | 5,070 | 49.13 |
| Tamworth | 3,085 | 200 | 6.48 |
| Tandridge | 24,819 | 23,280 | 93.80 |
| Test Valley | 62,760 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Tewkesbury | 41,439 | 6,580 | 15.88 |
| Three Rivers | 8,881 | 6,810 | 76.68 |
| Thurrock UA | 16,338 | 11,980 | 73.33 |
| Tonbridge and Malling | 23,800 | 17,060 | 71.68 |
| Trafford | 10,603 | 4,060 | 38.29 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 33,133 | 7,180 | 21.67 |
| Tynedale | 221,943 | 27,440 | 12.36 |
| Uttlesford | 64,118 | 3,810 | 5.94 |
| Vale of White Horse | 57,864 | 8,320 | 14.38 |
| Vale Royal | 38,019 | 17,270 | 45.42 |
| Wakefield | 33,861 | 23,890 | 70.55 |
| Walsall | 10,395 | 3,940 | 37.90 |
| Waltham Forest | 3,882 | 840 | 21.64 |
| Warrington | 18,063 | 11,510 | 63.72 |
| Warwick | 28,288 | 19,950 | 70.52 |
| Watford | 2,142 | 410 | 19.14 |
| Waverley | 34,517 | 21,150 | 61.27 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 12,955 | 10,250 | 79.12 |
| West Lancashire | 34,679 | 32,090 | 92.53 |
| West Oxfordshire | 71,440 | 1,610 | 2.25 |
| West Wiltshire | 51,692 | 5,140 | 9.94 |
| Wigan | 18,819 | 10,650 | 56.59 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 19,843 | 16,520 | 83.25 |
| Wirral | 15,705 | 7,330 | 46.67 |
| Woking | 6,360 | 4,020 | 63.21 |
| Wokingham | 17,897 | 2,890 | 16.15 |
| Wolverhampton | 6,943 | 800 | 11.52 |
| Worcester | 3,328 | 230 | 6.91 |
| Wychavon | 66,354 | 8,910 | 13.43 |
| Wycombe | 32,457 | 15,620 | 48.12 |
| Wyre | 28,256 | 760 | 2.69 |
| Wyre Forest | 19,540 | 11,210 | 57.37 |

[1] Areas less than 5 hectares.

*Source:*

Area of LA—2006 Ordinance Survey Boundary line at mean high water. Extent of Green Belt Land—Communities and Local Government Statistical Releases: Green Belt Statistics, England 2006.

### *Mean High Water (MHW)*

Mean high water (MHW) is the average elevation of all high waters recorded at a particular point or station over a considerable period of time, usually 19 years. For shorter periods of observation, corrections are applied to eliminate known variations and reduce the result to the equivalent of a mean 19-year value.

Source:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/swces/products/pubications/glossary/words/H_M.htm#M

## Home Information Packs

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for ~~Communities and Local Government~~ what assessment she has made of the impact of the introduction of home information packs on the residential housing market in the six areas trial. [171582]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 655W.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect of the introduction of home information packs on the number of properties being placed on the market. [171627]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement 'Home Information Packs' made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 140-42WS.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-2WS, on home information packs, which 85 local authorities have reduced their charges for average property searches by £30 on average as a result of the introduction of home information packs. [172073]

**Yvette Cooper:** The list of local authorities is as follows:

*LAs that have reduced their property search charges:*

Arun
Ashfield
Ashford
Babergh
Barnsley
Bassetlaw
Birmingham
Bolsover
Brentwood
Brighton
Broadland
Bromley
Castle Point
Chelmsford
Cherwell
Chiltern
Christchurch
Colchester
Cotswold
Crewe
Derby
Derbyshire Dales
East Herts
East Lindsey
East Riding
East Staffs
Eden
Elmbridge

Epping Forest
Exeter
Gateshead
Guildford
Hambleton
Harrogate
Havant
Hertsmere
Kingston upon Thames
Knowsley
Lewes
Liverpool
Medway
Melton
Mid Devon
Mid Sussex
New Forest
Newark
North Hertfordshire
Northampton
Oswestry
Pembrokeshire
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Redditch
Restormel
Rushmoor
Salford
Sefton
Shepway
Slough
South Bucks
South Gloucester
South Hams
South Lakeland
St. Albans
St. Edmundsbury
Stafford
Staffordshire Moorlands
Surrey Heath
Sutton
Test Valley
Thanet
Torbay
Torridge
Wakefield
Waltham Forest
Wansbeck
Warrington
Warwicks
Wealden
West Somerset
Winchester
Worcester
Worthing
Wychavon
Wyre

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* domestic energy assessors and *(b)* home information pack inspectors have had their licences revoked. [165775]

**Yvette Cooper:** Domestic energy assessor (DBA) accreditation schemes and home inspector (HI) certification schemes have not reported that they have revoked (permanently withdrawn) the accreditation or certification of any HIs or DEAs.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of home information pack companies which have closed in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [165778]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Department is not aware of any home information pack providers which have closed in the last 12 months.

## Home Information Packs: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when Europe Economics completed its economic analysis of home information packs; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the final report. [173337]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement 'Home Information Packs' made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

## Housing

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangement she plans to put in place to ensure liaison with the *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* Scottish Executive respectively, in cases where housing development on brownfield land acquired by the New English Homes and Communities Agency that immediately adjoins the national borders with Wales or Scotland will have a consequent environmental or planning impact on land in Wales or Scotland. [172995]

**Yvette Cooper:** Should such a situation arise, we would expect the Homes and Communities Agency to consider fully the wider impact of any work it was undertaking and to liaise with the appropriate authorities. We are developing a tasking framework, which will set out our expectations of how the agency will work in practice.

We expect to liaise with colleagues in the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Executive on the arrangements for cases in border areas.

## Housing: Applications

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will commission research into the quality of assessments of the vulnerability of homeless applicants, housing medical assessments and assessments on disabled facilities grant applications which have been made by private companies; [169433]

(2) if she will issue guidance on the methodology to be adopted by private medical assessors providing homelessness vulnerability assessments, housing medical assessments and assessments for disabled facilities grant applications. [169434]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** It is for individual local authorities to determine how best to make assessments which may require specialist medical advice, and from whom to seek appropriate advice, while ensuring that they meet their statutory obligations. The Government have no current plans to commission research into such assessments or issue guidance on methodology to be adopted.

### Housing: Finance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government spent on housing in each financial year since 1997-98; and of these sums how much was *(a)* spent on council owned housing stock, *(b)* spent through registered social landlords and *(c)* used to support home ownership schemes in each year. [164961]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows the overall capital sums invested in housing; investment in council owned housing stock; through registered social landlords and by registered social landlords to support home ownership schemes from 1997-98 to 2006-07. The total is greater than the component parts set out as it includes, for the most part, local authority investment in private sector housing. The balance between the total investment figures provided and the sum of the council and registered social landlords figures relate to grants provided to the private sector such as housing market renewal and disabled facilities grant.

*£ million*

| | *Total CLG capital investment in housing* | *(a) council owned stock* | *(b) registered social landlords* | *(c) Home ownership schemes (included in (b))* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 1,894 | 909 | 727 | 160 |
| 1998-99 | 2,098 | 1,135 | 732 | 115 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,173 | 1,126 | 815 | 79 |
| 2000-01 | 2,866 | 1,959 | 836 | 97 |
| 2001-02 | 3,312 | 2,378 | 823 | 90 |
| 2002-03 | 3,598 | 2,459 | 1,030 | 187 |
| 2003-04 | 4,685 | 2,683 | 1,805 | 498 |
| 2004-05 | 4,767 | 2,772 | 1,626 | 469 |
| 2005-06 | 5,106 | 3,055 | 1,609 | 581 |
| 2006-07 | 5,194 | 2,442 | 1,953 | 443 |

Government investment in council owned housing stock has primarily been provided through the housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy system in the form of local authorities supported capital expenditure (SCE), ALMOs supported borrowing allocations and major repairs allowance (MRA). Other funding also included in the figures are funding through Estate Action and Housing Action Trusts.

Prior to 2006-07, local authorities were provided with SCE for the renewal of private sector housing combined with that for their own stock. In the table therefore the SCE for private sector renewal is included in the council housing column as it cannot be disaggregated until 2006-07.

For registered social landlords the table includes capital expenditure via Housing Corporation which is for new supply and gap funding for stock transfers. Home ownership schemes are a subset of Housing Corporation capital investment.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government where surpluses accruing nationally from housing revenue accounts have been allocated in each year since 1997; and from which of the departmental budgets national housing revenue accounts have been financed in the same years. [165555]

**Yvette Cooper:** Until 2004-05, the housing revenue account subsidy system contained two distinct elements: the 'bricks and mortar' element where assumed spend and income on local authority housing was used to calculate the authority's entitlement to this element of subsidy and the rent rebate element.

Prior to 1 April 2004, if the bricks and mortar element of HRA subsidy was in surplus, that surplus was applied to the housing benefit bill of the local authority. This practice was discontinued in 2004-05. Any surplus still remaining was transferred to the authority's general fund.

The bricks and mortar element of the HRA subsidy system has been in deficit nationally since 2001-02, when this Government was first able to change the local authority housing spending plans it had inherited from the previous administration.

HRA subsidy expenditure is scored in Communities and Local Government against the 'HRA subsidy programme' budget, which is classified as annually managed expenditure, reflecting the demand led, volatile nature of HRA subsidy entitlement at a national level.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will commission research into the accuracy of decisions being made by private companies providing paper-based assessments of the vulnerability of homeless applicants, housing medical assessments and decisions on disabled facilities grant applications; [173763]

(2) if she will issue guidance on the methodology to be adopted by private medical assessors providing paper-based homelessness vulnerability assessments, housing medical assessments and decisions on disabled facilities grant applications. [173765]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave today to Questions 169433 and 169434.

### Housing: Solar Power

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the new planning guidance for the installation of domestic solar panels. [167565]

**Yvette Cooper:** We published on 30 November the Government response to the consultation on permitted development rights for householder microgeneration. The Government have decided that the main types of microgeneration technology, including solar, will be permitted development subject to certain conditions and limits to reduce impacts on neighbours. Our aim is to deliver these changes through amendments to secondary legislation in April of next year.

## Housing: Standards

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets the Government set for house building in each of the last 10 years; how many houses were built in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [165777]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Detailed housing targets are not directly set by government, but are set out in regional and local plans which are developed through regional and local planning processes.

However, Government do set the overall strategy for housing supply in England, and have announced several targets for supply in recent years. For example, the Government's response to the 2005 Barker Review of Housing Supply announced an ambition to increase housing supply from around 150,000 to 200,000 per annum by 2016.

Most recently, the Housing Green Paper, published in July, set out a target to increase housing supply to 240,000 additional homes per annum by 2016.

The number of new homes built in each of the last 10 years is set out in the following table. The information is also published on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/323495.

The Housing Green Paper commitment is measured against net additional dwellings (new build plus gains and losses from conversions, change of use and demolitions). The latest figures for 2005-06 show 185,000 net addition dwellings delivered in England.

*Table 209 House building: Permanent dwellings completed, by tenure[1] and country*

*Number of dwellings*

| *Financial year* | *United Kingdom* | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* | *Northern Ireland* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *All dwellings* | | | | | |
| 1990-91 | 198,074 | 160,032 | 10,999 | 19,457 | 7,586 |
| 1991-92 | 191,825 | 155,132 | 10,421 | 18,956 | 7,316 |
| 1992-93 | 178,915 | 142,461 | 9,991 | 18,902 | 7,561 |
| 1993-94 | 185,960 | 147,714 | 10,099 | 20,985 | 7,162 |
| 1994-95 | 197,169 | 157,966 | 10,335 | 22,136 | 6,732 |
| 1995-96 | 198,212 | 154,599 | 9,982 | 24,381 | 9,250 |
| 1996-97 | 185,654 | 146,246 | 10,088 | 20,414 | 8,906 |
| 1997-98 | 190,748 | 149,555 | 8,432 | 22,580 | 10,181 |
| 1998-99 | 178,720 | 140,708 | 7,737 | 20,637 | 9,638 |
| 1999-2000 | 185,360 | 142,046 | 8,706 | 24,209 | 10,399 |
| 2000-01 | 176,721 | 133,255 | 8,333 | 23,465 | 11,668 |
| 2001-02 | 175,236 | 129,866 | 8,273 | 23,610 | 13,487 |
| 2002-03 | 183,825 | 137,739 | 8,310 | 23,361 | 14,415 |
| 2003-04 | 190,427 | 143,958 | 8,296 | 23,662 | 14,511 |
| 2004-05 | 206,498 | 155,893 | 8,492 | 26,345 | 15,768 |
| 2005-06 | 213,372 | 163,398 | 8,257 | 24,307 | 17,410 |
| 2006-07[2] | — | 167,577 | 9,334 | — | 17,948 |
| *Private enterprise* | | | | | |
| 1990-91 | 162,182 | 132,499 | 8,667 | 15,305 | 5,711 |
| 1991-92 | 160,664 | 132,045 | 7,538 | 15,528 | 5,553 |
| 1992-93 | 144,367 | 115,913 | 7,132 | 15,563 | 5,759 |
| 1993-94 | 145,914 | 116,050 | 6,729 | 17,407 | 5,728 |
| 1994-95 | 156,547 | 125,738 | 7,264 | 18,195 | 5,350 |
| 1995-96 | 156,696 | 123,616 | 7,275 | 18,955 | 6,850 |
| 1996-97 | 153,165 | 121,165 | 7,517 | 17,210 | 7,273 |
| 1997-98 | 160,675 | 127,835 | 6,492 | 17,977 | 8,371 |
| 1998-99 | 154,988 | 121,645 | 6,439 | 18,764 | 8,140 |
| 1999-2000 | 160,730 | 124,716 | 7,860 | 19,037 | 9,117 |
| 2000-01 | 152,577 | 116,644 | 7,386 | 18,035 | 10,512 |
| 2001-02 | 153,333 | 115,701 | 7,494 | 18,066 | 12,072 |
| 2002-03 | 163,938 | 124,457 | 7,522 | 18,572 | 13,387 |
| 2003-04 | 171,845 | 130,096 | 7,863 | 19,935 | 13,951 |
| 2004-05 | 183,651 | 139,132 | 7,986 | 21,593 | 14,940 |
| 2005-06 | 188,653 | 144,937 | 7,883 | 19,205 | 16,628 |
| 2006-07[2] | — | 145,383 | 8,988 | — | 16,621 |
| *Registered social landlords* | | | | | |
| 1990-91 | 19,342 | 14,575 | 1,865 | 2,351 | 551 |
| 1991-92 | 21,134 | 15,974 | 2,549 | 1,809 | 802 |
| 1992-93 | 30,115 | 23,969 | 2,732 | 2,561 | 853 |
| 1993-94 | 36,435 | 30,213 | 3,095 | 2,581 | 546 |
| 1994-95 | 37,652 | 31,375 | 2,927 | 2,846 | 504 |
| 1995-96 | 38,471 | 30,226 | 2,510 | 4,697 | 1,038 |
| 1996-97 | 30,951 | 24,630 | 2,548 | 2,963 | 810 |
| 1997-98 | 28,554 | 21,397 | 1,938 | 4,489 | 730 |
| 1998-99 | 22,867 | 18,885 | 1,269 | 1,753 | 960 |
| 1999-00 | 24,313 | 17,272 | 846 | 5,103 | 1,092 |
| 2000-01 | 23,762 | 16,432 | 900 | 5,318 | 1,112 |
| 2001-02 | 21,678 | 14,102 | 711 | 5,479 | 1,386 |
| 2002-03 | 19,586 | 13,083 | 782 | 4,695 | 1,926 |
| 2003-04 | 18,375 | 13,671 | 417 | 3,727 | 560 |
| 2004-05 | 22,716 | 16,661 | 475 | 4,752 | 828 |
| 2005-06 | 24,393 | 18,162 | 347 | 5,102 | 782 |
| 2006-07[2] | — | 21,940 | 346 | — | 1,327 |
| *Local authorities* | | | | | |
| 1990-91 | 16,550 | 12,958 | 467 | 1,801 | 1,324 |
| 1991-92 | 10,027 | 7,113 | 334 | 1,619 | 961 |
| 1992-93 | 4,433 | 2,579 | 127 | 778 | 949 |
| 1993-94 | 3,611 | 1,451 | 275 | 997 | 888 |
| 1994-95 | 2,970 | 853 | 144 | 1,095 | 878 |
| 1995-96 | 3,045 | 757 | 197 | 729 | 1,362 |
| 1996-97 | 1,538 | 451 | 23 | 241 | 823 |
| 1997-98 | 1,519 | 323 | 2 | 114 | 1,080 |
| 1998-99 | 865 | 178 | 29 | 120 | 538 |
| 1999-2000 | 317 | 58 | — | 69 | 190 |
| 2000-01 | 382 | 179 | 47 | 112 | 44 |
| 2001-02 | 225 | 63 | 68 | 65 | 29 |
| 2002-03 | 301 | 199 | 6 | 94 | 2 |
| 2003-04 | 207 | 191 | 16 | — | — |

*Table 209 House building: Permanent dwellings completed, by tenure[1] and country*

*Number of dwellings*

| Financial year | United Kingdom | England | Wales | Scotland | Northern Ireland |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 131 | 100 | 31 | — | — |
| 2005-06 | 326 | 299 | 27 | — | — |
| 2006-07[2] | — | 245 | — | — | — |

[1] For detailed definitions of all tenures, see Definitions of housing terms in Housing Statistics home page

[2] Provisional

Source:

P2m returns from local authorities, returns from National House-Building Council (NHBC), Welsh Assembly, Scottish Executive, Department for Social Development

## Housing: Valuation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the joint Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors/Valuation Office Agency guidance note on contractor's basis valuations. [173317]

**John Healey:** The Joint Professional Institutions' Rating Valuation Forum produced the guidance note on the Contractor's Basis. This consisted of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation, the Rating Surveyors Association, the Scottish Assessors Association, the Valuation and Lands Agency (Northern Ireland) and the Valuation Office Agency. It is published by RICS Business Services Limited, to provide assistance to surveyors in undertaking methods of rating valuation. As such, the hon. Member and the Library of the House should seek to obtain a copy through the RICS.

## Infrastructure Planning Commission: Finance

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph (iv) on page 32 of the Impact Assessment of the Planning Bill, what *(a)* factors and *(b)* methodologies were taken into account in calculating the one-off start-up costs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [172804]

**John Healey:** The Planning Bill Impact Assessment was compiled using standard cost-benefit methodology. Page 32 of the Impact Assessment states that the one-off start-up costs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission are estimated at £5 million. The factors taken into account include the cost of communications start-up activities, recruitment, organisation-specific IT software, and contingencies.

## Internet: Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Get Safe On Line campaign. [167120]

**Gillian Merron:** I have been asked to reply.

The Get Safe Online campaign, a joint Government and industry initiative, has had a significant impact on awareness of internet safety. Following the first phase of the campaign in 2005, research of a representative sample of broadband users in the UK revealed that 22 per cent. were aware of the campaign. Of those, 40 per cent. said they would change their behaviour and 75 per cent. of those said they would back-up their files. At the end of 2006, the tracking study was repeated and 25 per cent. had heard of the campaign with 52 per cent. saying they would change their behaviour as a result.

The third Get Safe Online week has just been completed this November and further research will be conducted on the campaigns impact at the end of this year. The Internet Safety Week has achieved over 250 items of media coverage including national television and radio as well as giving internet safety advice directly to people through roadshows in six cities across the UK.

## Licensed Premises

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of *(a)* her Department's and *(b)* her Department's agencies' buildings have premises licences under the Licensing Act 2003. [174457]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In relation to Communities and Local Government's premises, a licence is held by the Eland Darts Club which is located in Eland House, Victoria, London. This forms part of the Department's sports and recreation association (SPARTA).

In relation to Communities and Local Government's agencies' premises, a licence is held by Operon for the Fire Service College at Moreton in Marsh, for the provision of bar facilities for delegates attending residential courses. A licence is also held by the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

## Local Authorities: Publications

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the total cost was of producing the pamphlet pack entitled Combating Misinformation - Fact Cards for Local Authorities; [172791]

(2) what the distribution list was of the pamphlet pack entitled Combating Misinformation - Fact Cards for Local Authorities; [172788]

(3) how many copies were produced of the pamphlet pack entitled Combating Misinformation - Fact Cards for Local Authorities. [172790]

**John Healey:** The cost of producing 9,000 "Combating Misinformation—Fact Cards for Local Authorities" packs was £4,110. The packs were distributed to: local authorities in England; the Local Government Association; and Government Offices for the English Regions.

## Local Government

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written statement of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 65WS, on local government, what assessment she has made of the likely effect of restructured councils that cross shire county boundaries on local identities; and of the likely levels of popular support for such councils. [173093]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: It will be for the Boundary Committee to consider these matters to the extent that the Committee judges them to be relevant to their providing the advice requested by the Secretary of State.

## Local Government Finance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each unitary local authority received per head in each of the last seven years for which figures are available, in ascending order. [167164]

**John Healey:** I have deposited in the Library of the House tables showing the information on central Government funding per head for each unitary local authority from 2000-01 to 2006-07.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average grant per capita allocated to each unitary authority was in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [170873]

**John Healey:** Information on central Government funding per head allocated to each unitary authority from 1997-98 to 2006-07 is in the following table.

*Central Government funding per head by unitary authority from 1997-98 to 2006-07*

£ per head

| | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bath and North East Somerset UA | 493 | 512 | 536 | 565 | 603 | 622 | 718 | 724 | 770 | 810 |
| Bristol UA | 578 | 606 | 641 | 695 | 720 | 111 | 926 | 933 | 1,004 | 1,040 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 465 | 493 | 522 | 565 | 622 | 631 | 713 | 736 | 796 | 837 |
| North Somerset UA | 490 | 510 | 521 | 562 | 595 | 635 | 734 | 748 | 806 | 842 |
| Luton UA | 670 | 711 | 754 | 836 | 886 | 948 | 1,083 | 1,138 | 1,195 | 1,249 |
| Bracknell Forest UA | [1]— | 503 | 535 | 568 | 607 | 617 | 697 | 760 | 768 | 818 |
| West Berkshire UA | [1]— | 537 | 547 | 617 | 652 | 674 | 794 | 821 | 892 | 912 |
| Reading UA | [1]— | 554 | 582 | 633 | 663 | 711 | 841 | 877 | 938 | 951 |
| Slough UA | [1]— | 762 | 829 | 927 | 946 | 980 | 1,134 | 1,192 | 1,257 | 1,277 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead UA | [1]— | 478 | 618 | 524 | 573 | 590 | 833 | 850 | 905 | 723 |
| Wokingham UA | [1]— | 410 | 461 | 487 | 513 | 515 | 587 | 638 | 738 | 721 |
| Milton Keynes UA | 595 | 618 | 657 | 689 | 757 | 753 | 863 | 906 | 1,012 | 1,067 |
| Peterborough UA | [1]— | 718 | 745 | 815 | 888 | 905 | 1,014 | 1,059 | 1,133 | 1,291 |
| Halton UA | [1]— | 745 | 805 | 870 | 930 | 992 | 1,141 | 1,197 | 1,260 | 1,340 |
| Warrington UA | [1]— | 564 | 601 | 645 | 691 | 718 | 841 | 868 | 917 | 973 |
| Hartlepool UA | 720 | 768 | 835 | 904 | 967 | 1,055 | 1,204 | 1,255 | 1,309 | 1,382 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 799 | 794 | 908 | 997 | 1,032 | 1,106 | 1,273 | 1,235 | 1,381 | 1,391 |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 674 | 718 | 761 | 824 | 903 | 991 | 1,177 | 1,164 | 1,226 | 1,314 |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | 635 | 673 | 724 | 769 | 827 | 891 | 1,000 | 1,004 | 1,082 | 1,117 |
| Derby City UA | 622 | 666 | 703 | 766 | 839 | 882 | 1,062 | 1,057 | 1,128 | 1,241 |
| Plymouth UA | [1]— | 714 | 742 | 800 | 850 | 874 | 985 | 1,014 | 1,061 | 1,103 |
| Torbay UA | [1]— | 631 | 649 | 726 | 730 | 774 | 905 | 921 | 983 | 1,028 |
| Poole UA | 459 | 478 | 517 | 553 | 592 | 581 | 687 | 694 | 733 | 783 |
| Bournemouth UA | 575 | 589 | 610 | 658 | 687 | 752 | 880 | 878 | 918 | 955 |
| Darlington UA | 581 | 614 | 659 | 717 | 769 | 835 | 920 | 955 | 1,027 | 1,110 |
| Brighton and Hove UA | 610 | 647 | 674 | 724 | 773 | 843 | 980 | 997 | 1,029 | 1,057 |
| Southend-on-Sea UA | [1]— | 654 | 701 | 776 | 848 | 889 | 985 | 1,010 | 1,067 | 1,120 |
| Thurrock UA | [1]— | 615 | 663 | 720 | 772 | 866 | 971 | 1,001 | 1,046 | 1,064 |
| Portsmouth UA | 630 | 686 | 720 | 774 | 813 | 880 | 979 | 1,002 | 1,090 | 1,118 |
| Southampton UA | 630 | 662 | 699 | 771 | 814 | 858 | 994 | 1,020 | 1,084 | 1,075 |
| Herefordshire UA | [1]— | 494 | 529 | 573 | 621 | 681 | 776 | 828 | 885 | 901 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 524 | 545 | 586 | 626 | 655 | 684 | 784 | 798 | 842 | 876 |
| Kingston upon Hull UA | 735 | 780 | 838 | 914 | 995 | 1,058 | 1,187 | 1,193 | 1,252 | 1,299 |
| North East Lincolnshire UA | 647 | 694 | 746 | 805 | 871 | 911 | 1,080 | 1,092 | 1,117 | 1,238 |
| North Lincolnshire UA | 622 | 641 | 664 | 719 | 758 | 818 | 933 | 925 | 995 | 1,066 |
| Isle of Wight UA | 585 | 620 | 652 | 696 | 763 | 798 | 903 | 964 | 1,012 | 1,066 |
| The Medway Towns UA | [1]— | 652 | 683 | 740 | 782 | 817 | 913 | 938 | 990 | 1,045 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | [1]— | 789 | 847 | 905 | 982 | 1,057 | 1,244 | 1,295 | 1,407 | 1,476 |
| Blackpool UA | [1]— | 675 | 728 | 792 | 854 | 940 | 1,082 | 1,117 | 1,191 | 1,249 |
| Leicester City UA | 788 | 803 | 846 | 913 | 969 | 1,071 | 1,247 | 1,316 | 1,376 | 1,420 |
| Rutland UA | 463 | 474 | 487 | 504 | 575 | 627 | 674 | 693 | 747 | 790 |
| York UA | 464 | 480 | 512 | 552 | 581 | 616 | 714 | 718 | 755 | 780 |
| City of Nottingham UA | [1]— | 738 | 808 | 869 | 937 | 998 | 1,196 | 1,327 | 1,378 | 1,432 |
| Telford and the Wrekin UA | [1]— | 605 | 650 | 697 | 736 | 785 | 912 | 951 | 1,044 | 1,098 |

*Central Government funding per head by unitary authority from 1997-98 to 2006-07*

*£ per head*

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 604 | 661 | 723[1] | 806 | 832 | 933 | 1,061 | 1,111 | 1,195 | 1,249 |
| Swindon UA | 516 | 546 | 579 | 650 | 687 | 713 | 826 | 860 | 932 | 960 |

[1] Not relevant.

*Notes:*

1. Central Government funding is defined here as the sum of formula grant (Revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. In past years, where applicable the standard spending assessment reduction grant and central support protection grants have also been included.
2. Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.
3. Population figures used in the calculation are the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates for respective year.
4. Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

*Source:*

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* resource DEL and *(b)* net aggregate external finance was allocated to local authorities in England in each year from 1997-98; and how much has been budgeted for each year to 2010-11. [173330]

**John Healey:** The following table provides the information requested on net aggregate external finance (AEF); and figures for total AEF. The figures up to 2007-08 are those announced at the time of the annual local government finance settlement. The figures for 2008-09 onwards are those I announced to the House on 6 December 2007 in the provisional local government finance settlement 2008-09. These totals are not adjusted for changes in finance or function and cannot be compared between years.

Total AEF is the total of Government revenue support for local authorities' core services and includes the total of general grant support and specific grants. Net AEF is the amount set aside for revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates.

*£ billion*

| | *Net AEF* | *Total AEF* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 30.702 | 35.767 |
| 1998-99 | 32.030 | 37.521 |
| 1999-2000 | 33.514 | 39.545 |
| 2000-01 | 34.836 | 41.771 |
| 2001-02 | 36.259 | 44.661 |
| 2002-03 | 36.557 | 47.393 |
| 2003-04 | 39.874 | 51.551 |
| 2004-05 | 42.010 | 54.860 |
| 2005-06 | 44.726 | 60.144 |
| 2006-07 | 20.943 | 62.127 |
| 2007-08 | 21.663 | 65.794 |
| 2008-09 | 23.409 | 70.408 |
| 2009-10 | 24.051 | 73.484 |
| 2010-11 | 24.672 | 76.671 |

The Department does not keep historical records over time of the amount allocated through resource DEL to local authorities, which will come from a range of departmental expenditure limits. Total AEF is the best measure of the overall amount of revenue grant provided by Government for core local authority services.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of local government revenue expenditure was financed by specific grants, in absolute cash terms, in each year since 1997-98. [173335]

**John Healey:** The level of local government revenue expenditure financed by specific grants, in cash terms, in each year since 1997-98 is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *Specific grants* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 1,826 |
| 1998-99 | 2,335 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,921 |
| 2000-01 | 4,671 |
| 2001-02 | 6,552 |
| 2002-03 | 8,901 |
| 2003-04 | 13,447 |
| 2004-05 | 14,090 |
| 2005-06 | 14,785 |
| 2006-07 | 41,771 |

*Notes:*

1. The large change in specific grant in 2006-07 is largely due to changes in the way the expenditure on schools is funded. Local authorities now receive dedicated schools grant, included in specific grants, replacing funding previously included in formula grant.
2. Specific grants are defined as the specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services.
3. Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.
4. Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

*Source:*

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

### Local Government Finance: Elderly

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she gave to the percentage of the population aged over 65 years in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth constituency when determining local authority grant allocation; and if she will make a statement. [173075]

**John Healey:** The sub-national population projections of people aged 65 and over are used in the Social Services for Older People Relative Need Formula (RNF) to determine the number of projected household and supported residents aged 65 years and over. A Social Services for Older People RNF is calculated for Staffordshire county council since it is the authority with responsibility for social services within its area.

### Local Government Finance: Immigrants

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what considerations she gave to the number of immigrants in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth constituency when determining local authority grant allocation; and if she will make a statement. [173076]

**John Healey:** For the majority of the Relative Needs Formulae used in the calculation of the Relative Needs Amount, the client group is based on the sub-national population projections for the appropriate age group. The sub-national population projections estimate the number of people who are resident in the area for over a year, including immigrants.

When calculating formula grant allocations, we use the best data that are available, that treat all authorities on a consistent basis and that are available at the time. In the case of the population projections, these are the revised 2004-based sub-national population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment her Department has made of the effect of changes in net immigration on *(a)* council tax and *(b)* local authority funding; [171559]

(2) what estimate she has made of the effect of the change in net migration not accounted for in the Government's initial estimates on council tax bills. [171574]

**John Healey:** The Government worked closely with local authorities during the comprehensive spending review 2007 to identify all pressures over the next three years, and the ways to manage them. The provisional local government finance settlement I announced recently provides local authorities with a total increase in Government grant of £2.7 billion, £3.1 billion and £3.2 billion over the next three years (increases of 4 per cent., 4.4 per cent. and 4.3 per cent. respectively). An additional £4.9 billion is potentially available by 2010-11 through the delivery of 3 per cent. efficiency gains each year. We believe that authorities are able to meet the pressures on their services while keeping average council tax increases substantially below 5 per cent. a year.

Many migrants are, of course, self-sufficient, employed and contribute to the local economy and do not put any significant pressure on public services. However, we recognise that other types of migrants such as unaccompanied minors do create real pressures, as can large movements of people into an area in a short space of time. So we recognise that some individual local authorities are experiencing more challenges than others.

We have therefore already announced a £50 million investment over the next three years to promote community cohesion and support local authorities in preventing and managing community tensions. This money will help local authorities respond to their own particular challenges, including for example issues relating to new migration.

### Local Government Finance: Public Participation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by whom the decision would be taken to hold a ballot, under her proposals to introduce powers to ballot on local spending decisions. [173228]

**John Healey:** "The Governance of Britain" Green Paper, issued in July, said the Government will consult on introducing powers, for example to local authorities, to ballot a local community on spending decisions. We will consult in the new year on a strategy for Participatory Budgeting, which will cover the use of ballots.

### Local Government Finance: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the local authority grant settlement per capita was in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth constituency in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [173077]

**John Healey:** The following table shows the average formula grant per head for *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth for each year since 1997. Formula grant comprises revenue support grant and redistributed business rates. In order to compare grant on a like-for-like basis we calculate a notional adjusted formula grant for the previous year which reflects the changes to funding and function. From 2006-07 support for schools was financed through the dedicated schools grant; prior to 2006-07 support for schools was included within formula grant.

| | *Staffordshire county council* | | | | *Tamworth borough council* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Change in formula grant per head* | | | | *Change in formula grant per head* | |
| *Current year* | *Adjusted formula grant per head for the previous year (£ per head)* | *Formula grant per head for the current year (£ per head)* | *(£ per head)* | *(Percentage)* | *Adjusted formula grant per head for the previous year (£ per head)* | *Formula grant per head for the current year (£ per head)* | *(£ per head)* | *(Percentage)* |
| 1998-99 | 444.54 | 453.71 | 9.17 | 2.1 | 63.73 | 59.87 | -3.86 | -6.1 |
| 1999-2000 | 453.71 | 475.56 | 21.85 | 4.8 | 59.87 | 60.37 | 0.50 | 0.8 |

| | *Staffordshire county council* | | | | *Tamworth borough council* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Change in formula grant per head* | | | | *Change in formula grant per head* | |
| *Current year* | *Adjusted formula grant per head for the previous year (£ per head)* | *Formula grant per head for the current year (£ per head)* | *(£ per head)* | *(Percentage)* | *Adjusted formula grant per head for the previous year (£ per head)* | *Formula grant per head for the current year (£ per head)* | *(£ per head)* | *(Percentage)* |
| 2000-01 | 475.56 | 491.45 | 15.89 | 3.3 | 60.37 | 61.98 | 1.61 | 2.7 |
| 2001-02 | 488.20 | 504.39 | 16.19 | 3.3 | 62.45 | 64.85 | 2.40 | 3.8 |
| 2002-03 | 471.53 | 496.34 | 24.81 | 5.3 | 63.95 | 66.77 | 2.82 | 4.4 |
| Amended 2003-04 | 521.55 | 559.09 | 37.54 | 7.2 | 65.23 | 72.54 | 7.31 | 11.2 |
| Amended 2004-05 | 545.59 | 579.78 | 34.20 | 6.3 | 66.85 | 70.89 | 4.05 | 6.1 |
| Amended 2005-06 | 584.22 | 614.06 | 29.84 | 5.1 | 71.15 | 74.55 | 3.40 | 4.8 |
| 2006-07 | 141.59 | 144.77 | 3.18 | 2.2 | 80.98 | 83.81 | 2.83 | 3.5 |
| 2007-08 | 143.61 | 148.61 | 5.00 | 3.5 | 83.57 | 86.83 | 3.26 | 3.9 |

I announced the provisional settlement for local government for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to the House on Thursday 6 December 2007.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she gave to the average household income in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth when determining the local authorities' grants allocation; and if she will make a statement. [173516]

**John Healey:** Household income is not a factor that has been shown to influence the relative costs to local authorities of delivering any particular service. However, various measures of deprivation are included within the Relative Needs Formulae, for example the number of income support claimants and the number of people receiving unemployment-related benefits.

## Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the letter of 18 September from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Ref: YC/WR/025283/07), when she expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 19 October. [174326]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I replied to the hon. Member's correspondence on 7 December.

## Non-Domestic Rates: Combined Heat and Power

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a combined heat and power (CHP) certificate issued by the Secretary of State provides a discount or exemption on the business rates liability of the CHP system. [173333]

**John Healey:** Where, in the case of a combined heat and power station, the Secretary of State has provided a certificate of either full or partial exemption in accordance with paragraph 148(2) or, as the case may be, paragraph 148(3) of schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2000, then certain items of plant and machinery will be disregarded in whole or in part when valuing the station for non-domestic rates.

## Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which property attributes will form part of the Valuation Office Agency's multiple regression analysis in its proposed automated valuation model for business rates; [173224]

(2) how much has been spent by the Valuation Office Agency on an automated valuation model for business rate valuations. [173328]

**John Healey:** The VOA is investigating the use of outputs from the use of multiple regression analysis techniques as a tool to assist valuers when making judgments about appropriate value levels for the next revaluation of non-domestic property in 2010.

The investigation covers office and industrial property and the attributes used within the analysis are location, age of property and floor area. In the course of this investigation the VOA has spent in the region of £155,000 to include the full pay costs of relevant VOA staff.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the rateable value of a business premise changes between statutory revaluations if there is a material change to the property. [173292]

**John Healey:** The rateable value of a business premises, known as a hereditament, may be altered between statutory revaluations if there has been a material change of circumstances. Rate payers may make a proposal to the Valuation Office to alter the rateable value, or Valuation Officers may alter the rateable value of the hereditament as part of their duty to maintain the rating list.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ordnance Survey plans to use an automated valuation model for the 2010 business rates revaluation. [173320]

**John Healey:** The Valuation Office Agency (VOA), not Ordnance Survey, is responsible for the 2010 revaluation of non-domestic property.

An AVM is a tool that could support valuers in the valuation process, through the use of multiple regression analysis techniques. The VOA are investigating the use of such a tool.

### Office for Tenants and Social Landlords

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the proposed Office for Tenants and Social Landlords will have over land and properties held by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations. [171526]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Housing and Regeneration Bill proposes that the new social housing regulator, the Office for Tenants and Social Landlords, (OFTENANT) should retain the Housing Corporation's current powers to secure land and properties owned by housing associations which are registered providers of social housing under the Bill. These include:

> Clauses 135-149 provide for a moratorium on the disposal of land by a housing association which is a registered provider subject to conditions and exemptions, where the housing association's creditors take steps to enforce their security over the association's land. During the moratorium the regulator can make proposals about the future ownership and management of the housing association's land. The regulator may appoint a manager to implement the proposals.
>
> Clauses 157-159 permit the regulator to transfer land held by a housing association which is a registered provider and which is dissolved or wound-up, to another registered provider or to the regulator.
>
> Clauses 160 to 165 of the Bill provide that any disposal of land by a registered housing association require the regulator's consent unless they fall within an exception. They list those exceptions, and outline the procedure for consent.
>
> Clauses 168-169 give the regulator the Housing Corporation's powers of consent over disposals of grant-aided land held by unregistered housing associations.
>
> Clauses 229-230 allow the regulator to direct a housing association which is a registered provider to transfer its land to another registered provider, or to the regulator, if satisfied following a statutory inquiry that there has been a breach of standards set by the regulator or mismanagement or that management would of the land is likely to be improved by a transfer.

The Housing and Regeneration Bill does not give the regulator any powers over land and properties held by local authorities. We intend that local authorities will be brought within the scope of the new regulator within two years of housing associations being regulated by it, through further primary legislation.

### Regional European Offices: Expenditure

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding the Government provides to the North West Brussels Office. [173483]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

The North West Development Agency provided funds of £61,231 to the North West Brussels Office in 2006-07.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was spent by the North East of England Brussels Office in the last year for which figures are available; [173290]

(2) how much was spent by the South West UK Brussels Office in the last year for which figures are available; [173291]

(3) how much was spent by the East Midlands European Office in the last year for which figures are available; [173294]

(4) how much was spent on the North West Brussels Office in the last year for which figures are available; [173305]

(5) what the expenditure was of the West Midlands in Europe office in the last year for which figures are available. [173310]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the expenditure of UK regional European offices in the last year (2006-07).

| *UK regional European office* | *Expenditure 2006-07 (£000)* | *Notes* |
|---|---|---|
| West Midlands in Europe Brussels Office | 757 | The income for this office came from a large number of public and private sector subscribers in the West Midlands region |
| East Midlands European Office | 335 | This is not an overseas office focused only in inward investment, but a regional representation office (with wider partnerships, including local government, universities and other public and private sector partners) |
| North East of England Brussels Office | 132 | The office is primarily funded by One North East, The Regional Assembly and Local Learning and Skills Council with a number of associate partners making small subscriptions |
| North West Brussels Office | 113 | This office is jointly staffed and funded by the NW Regional Assembly and Northwest Regional Development Agency |
| South West UK Brussels Office | 385 | This office is a partnership office supported by all first tier local authorities in the South West, the South West RDA, the South West Regional Assembly and HERDA (South West Universities). |

| *UK regional European office* | *Expenditure 2006-07 (£000)* | *Notes* |
|---|---|---|
| Yorkshire Europe | 340 | Yorkshire Europe is the region's representation in Brussels, providing information and intelligence about Europe for Yorkshire and Humber as well as promoting the region within Europe. Yorkshire Europe is solely funded by Yorkshire Forward |

### Regional Government: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* function and *(b)* purpose is of the English Regions Network; and whether the Government plans to change its funding to the network following the Sub-National Review. [173312]

**John Healey:** The function and purpose of the English Regions Network is to represent the collective views of regional assemblies, share best practice and facilitate inter-regional networking and to commission work of mutual interest.

My Department is considering future funding of the regional assemblies and the English Regions Network following the recent Comprehensive Spending Review settlement for the Department.

### Regional Government: Ministers

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ministers for *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* London, *(e)* the South East, *(f)* the South West, *(g)* the East Midlands, *(h)* the West Midlands and *(i)* the East of England have taken decisions relevant to Government policy in relation to their regions [169120]

**Hazel Blears:** Ministers in their Regional Ministers role do not make policy decisions for their regions; they are central Government's advocates in the regions.

All Regional Ministers consulted with stakeholders on the Government draft legislative programme in September and October. In addition a number wrote to interested parties inviting their views. Among those consulted were representatives from local authorities, business, public institutions, voluntary and community sectors, Members of Parliament and Peers, and environmental groups.

Regional Ministers have contributed to the development of Government policy across a range of areas, including economic growth and sustainable development, since their establishment in June.

All Regional Ministers have taken part in a number of high level engagements within their regions, including meetings with local authorities and other organisations, attendance at stakeholder events and visits to local projects and communities.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are for a local area agreement to be signed off by *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* the Government Office for the Region; and whether either has a power of veto over a proposed agreement. [173334]

**John Healey:** The statutory requirements for the sign off of local area agreements are to be found at sections 106 and 107 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007). These provisions require that the responsible local authority must submit the draft LAA to the Secretary of State by the date given in any direction. The Secretary of State may then either approve the draft—from which point it will have effect—or the Secretary of State may require that it be modified.

The Government offices for the regions have no formal role in the submission and sign off process for LAAs, but in practice they will perform an important function during the negotiations. The operational roles for the Secretary of State and Government offices, including those for the sign-off process for the next round of LAAs, were outlined in the operational guidance: Development of the new LAA framework, published on 20 November 2007, a copy of which is on the Communities and Local Government website.

### Regional Planning and Development: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been provided to each of the regional centres of excellence and regional improvement partnerships. [173377]

**John Healey:** Funding allocations are set out in the following two tables.

*£ million*

| *Regional Centre of Excellence* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 1.28 | 2.02 | 1.51 |
| East Midlands | 1.15 | 1.60 | 1.00 |
| London | 1.25 | 2.03 | 1.08 |
| North East | 0.94 | 1.55 | 0.81 |
| North West | 1.32 | 1.77 | 1.14 |
| South East | 1.58 | 2.03 | 1.36 |
| South West | 1.24 | 1.69 | 1.07 |
| West Midlands | 1.18 | 1.81 | 1.02 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 1.06 | 1.79 | 0.91 |

*£ million*

| *Improvement Partnership* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|
| East of England | 2.25 | 1.96 |
| East Midlands | 0 | 2.97 |
| London | 1.75 | 3.52 |
| North East | 1.00 | 2.01 |
| North West | 2.90 | 2.88 |
| South East | 0 | 4.05 |
| South West | 0 | 1.92 |
| West Midlands | 3.95 | 1.03 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 1.60 | 2.92 |

### Regional Planning and Development: Flood Control

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration has been given to amending *(a)* planning statements, *(b)* local development frameworks and *(c)* regional spatial strategies to prevent houses being built on a flood plain. [172066]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Planning Policy Statement (PPS)25 was published in December 2006 to provide stronger planning policy on development and flood risk. It aims to locate development away from flood risk whenever possible and avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. The PPS requires regional planning bodies and local planning authorities to prepare and implement planning strategies in their regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks that reflect the approach to avoiding and managing flood risk set out in PPS25.

### Second Homes: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* second homes and *(b)* holiday lets in each local authority in Gloucestershire there were in the latest year for which figures are available. [163265]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows the number of properties designated as second homes in each local authority in Gloucestershire as at October 2006.

| *Authority* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Cheltenham | 697 |
| Cotswold | 1,302 |
| Forest of Dean | 346 |
| Gloucester | 128 |
| Stroud | 367 |
| Tewkesbury | 200 |
| Gloucestershire | 3,040 |

The data are from a snapshot taken each year and are as recorded, in council tax base returns submitted annually, by each local authority for formula grant purposes. The information regarding holiday lets is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

### Sleeping Rough

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the number of people sleeping rough in England; and what steps her Department is taking to get people off the streets and into secure accommodation. [173624]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The 2007 national rough sleeping estimate shows there are currently 498 people sleeping rough on the streets of England on any one night. This figure represents a 73 per cent. reduction in rough sleeping since 1998.

Communities and Local Government (CLG) is working closely with local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to tackle all forms of homelessness. Local authorities will receive at least £150 million over the next three years to help them prevent and tackle homelessness, including rough sleeping. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services.

The £70 million Places of Change programme announced by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing on 13 November is a new round of funding which has been allocated through the recent Comprehensive Spending Review process. This funding will enable the continuation of our work with the £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme (which runs until March 2008) and will build upon its success in helping rough sleepers move away from the streets permanently through the use of training and skills provision and supported accommodation.

### Social Rented Housing: Rents

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the difference between actual housing rents charged and notional rents assumed by each local authority in each year since 1990; and what assessment she has made of the areas of expenditure in which any additional income has been spent. [164716]

**Yvette Cooper:** A table showing the difference between actual rents charged and notional rents assumed by local authority between 2004-05 and 2007-08 has been deposited in the Library of the House. Consistent estimates prior to 2004-05 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The figures on actual rents charged are based on unaudited information provided by local authorities.

We do not hold data in a form that would allow us to identify specifically what any additional rental income is spent on by local authorities. However, any extra income will necessarily be spent on the housing revenue account.

### Temporary Accommodation

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households with dependent children are housed in temporary accommodation by their local authority in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region of England. [173883]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter, and of those, the number which contain dependent children and/or an expectant mother. This figure includes those households who have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, those for whom inquiries are pending, and those found to be intentionally homeless but who are being accommodated for a reasonable period by the authority.

The total number of households with dependent children and/or an expectant mother in temporary accommodation is available in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness (table 6, for the national figure broken down by type of temporary accommodation). This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 December 2007 and contains data for the period July to September 2007 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Snapshot figures as at 30 September 2007 are shown in the following table, for England, broken down by regions.

*Households with dependent children and/or an expectant mother in temporary accommodation under homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act, snapshot as at 30 September 2007*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| England | 62,830 |
| North East | 250 |
| North West | 1,560 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1,190 |
| East Midlands | 1,150 |
| West Midlands | 1,200 |
| East | 3,260 |
| London | 45,140 |
| South East | 5,500 |
| South West | 3,590 |

At the end of September 2007, 92 per cent. of families with dependent children and/or an expectant mother in temporary accommodation were living in self-contained properties with their own front door.

In January 2005, the Government set a target of halving the total number of households in all forms of temporary accommodation used by local authorities to discharge their main duty under the homelessness legislation. The number of families with children in temporary accommodation has fallen by 15 per cent. since September 2005.

### Thames Gateway

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 662W, on Thames Gateway, what proportion of the planned 160,000 homes will not be built on previously developed land in existing urban areas already protected by flood defences of a high standard. [165939]

**Yvette Cooper:** It is planned that at least 80 per cent. of all new homes built in the Thames Gateway will be built on previously developed land. All new developments must be in line with Planning Policy Statement 25, and be supported where necessary by flood risk assessments to ensure that the development is designed and laid out to reduce the consequences of river and surface water flooding.

### Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account she will take of eco-town submissions in the approval process for the South East Plan; and if she will make a statement. [171215]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Secretary of State is considering the recommendations contained in the report into the regional spatial strategy (RSS) for the south-east (published on 29 August) and expects to publish any proposed changes to the draft regional spatial strategy for consultation in the new year.

### Valuation Office Agency: Consultants

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there is a *(a)* termination date and *(b)* option to terminate in the contract between Cole Layer Trumble and Capgemini, in relation to the consultancy services that it provides to assist the ongoing work of the Valuation Office Agency. [173287]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 74W and to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1156W. The Valuation Office Agency has no direct contractual relationship with Cole Layer Trumble (CLT) and therefore has no obligation to use CLT's consultancy services for any defined period.

### Waste Management: Hampshire

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the ability of waste authorities in Hampshire to meet the requirements of the European Land Directive on waste facilities. [172135]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

I assume the hon. Member is referring to the European Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) in his question.

No specific assessment has been made by my Department of the ability of the waste authorities in Hampshire to meet requirements on waste facilities in line with the Landfill Directive. Local authorities have no specific requirements in this respect.

Article 5(2) of the directive places requirements on the UK to divert biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) from landfill by target years. In England, the Government have introduced the Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS) to ensure that our share of these targets are met cost-effectively. LATS places an obligation on waste disposal authorities to landfill only BMW for which allowances are held. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have similar schemes.

Article 5(3) of the directive bans the landfilling of certain classes of waste, (for example liquids and most tyres), while article 6 requires that only waste that has undergone treatment (which includes sorting) may be landfilled.

The remaining provisions of the directive apply principally to the operators of landfill sites and include measures to prevent or reduce potential adverse effects on the environment and risks to human health and for the aftercare and closure of landfill sites. These provisions and others are subject to the need for a permit and are monitored by the Environment Agency, as the regulator for England and Wales.

DEFRA's Waste Implementation Delivery Programme (WIDP) is maintaining a national overview of existing and planned residual treatment capacity to ensure that resources are applied in the most effective manner.

### Yorkshireurope: Expenditure

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by Yorkshireurope in the last year for which figures are available. [173327]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the expenditure of UK Regional European Offices in the last year (2006-07).

| *UK regional European offices* | *Expenditure 2006-07 (£000)* | *Notes* |
|---|---|---|
| West Midlands in Europe Brussels Office | 757 | The income for this office came from a large number of public and private sector subscribers in the West Midlands region |
| East Midlands European Office | 335 | This is not an overseas office focused only in inward investment, but a regional representation office (with wider partnerships, including local government, universities and other public and private sector partners). |
| North East of England Brussels Office | 132 | The office is primarily funded by One North East, The Regional Assembly and Local Learning and Skills Council with a number of associate partners making small subscriptions. |
| North West Brussels Office | 113 | This office is jointly staffed and funded by the NW Regional Assembly and Northwest Regional Development Agency. |
| South West UK Brussels Office | 385 | This office is a partnership office supported by all first tier local authorities in the South West, the South West RDA, the South West Regional Assembly and HERDA (South West Universities). |
| Yorkshireurope | 340 | Yorkshireurope is the region's representation in Brussels, providing information and intelligence about Europe for Yorkshire and Humber as well as promoting the region within Europe. Yorkshireurope is solely funded by Yorkshire Forward. |

## TRANSPORT

### A303

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to upgrade and dual stretches of the A303. [174268]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Following the recent decision not to proceed with the A303 Improvements Scheme at Stonehenge, the Department for Transport will shortly be discussing with the South West Region the implications of the decision for the wider strategy for improving the A303/A358 corridor to the M5 at Taunton.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the improvement of the A303 at Stonehenge; and if she will make a statement. [171861]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Our policy on the improvement to the A303 at Stonehenge was announced in my oral statement to the House on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 959.

### Aircraft: Noise

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many people in London live in an area of more than *(a)* 50, *(b)* 52, *(c)* 54, *(d)* 56, *(e)* 58, *(f)* 60, *(g)* 62, *(h)* 63, *(i)* 66, *(j)* 69, *(k)* 70 and *(l)* 72 dBA arising from aircraft noise; [171805]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of people in London who would live in an area with more than *(a)* 50, *(b)* 52, *(c)* 54, *(d)* 56, *(e)* 58, *(f)* 60, *(g)* 62, *(h)* 63, *(i)* 66, *(j)* 69, *(k)* 70 and *(l)* 72 dBA as a consequence of aircraft noise under each of the Heathrow runway options in (i) 2015, (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2030. [171806]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Annual aircraft noise contours are produced for the Department by the Environmental Research and Consultancy Department (ERCD) of the Civil Aviation Authority. These show noise contours from 57dBA to 72dBA in steps of 3dB and provide information on the population within each contour. The latest report is 'Noise Exposure Contours for Heathrow Airport 2006' (ERCD Report 0701). ERCD have confirmed that, for 2006, the population within the 54dBA contour and above, is 609,700.

ERCD have also produced a supporting technical report 'Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates for Heathrow Airport', (ERCD Report 0705), as part of our current consultation 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport'. This predicts future populations within the noise contours (including the 54dBA contour level) for various operating and development scenarios in 2015, 2020 and 2030. All these documents are available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to retain the current cap on night flights past 2012. [170695]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The current night flights regime was introduced in October 2006 and lasts to 2012. Decisions on the night regime to apply from 2012 will be subject to a future consultation, however, there is not necessarily a relationship between the capacity of Heathrow airport and the number of night flights.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she is considering strengthening the system of fines for exceeding aircraft noise quotas. [170696]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Civil Aviation Act 2006 strengthened airport operators' powers to control noise at airports. These powers enable airports to introduce noise control schemes or impose financial penalties on aircraft operators straying from agreed flight paths or exceeding noise limits on departure. We plan to consult airport consultative committees next year as to the extent to which airports have begun to make use of these new powers and keep this issue under review. A number of airport operators have also introduced noise related charging schemes to encourage the use of quieter aircraft.

## Airports: Greater London

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of Ferrovial's ability to meet the combined cost of new runways at both Stansted and Heathrow. [170709]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** At acquisition, BAA's new owners Ferrovial Airport Development and Investment Ltd. (ADI) stated their commitment to deliver the airport capacity proposed in the 2003 Future of Air Transport White Paper, and Ferrovial provided us with assurances of their support for the investment programme.

## Airports: Security

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make representations to BAA to ensure that security procedures at London's main airports for passengers going to Belfast are identical to those in place for passengers bound for other airports in the UK. [174597]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The aviation security measures in place in the UK apply equally to all airports within the National Aviation Security Programme.

## Aviation: Security

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure that flights into the UK are compliant with the same security standards as flights from the UK. [173416]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: International civil aviation operates under the principle of host state responsibility, whereby each state is responsible for the security of air services operated from its territory. States are required as a minimum to deliver the security standards laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation and, within the European Union, those mandated by EU aviation security legislation. The Department for Transport engages both multilaterally and, bilaterally to help reinforce aviation security performance in other countries, including in particular those from which there are flights to the UK.

## Bus Services: Concessions

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will ensure that the Government grant to Torbay Unitary Authority covers the authority's costs arising from the nationwide concessionary bus fare scheme, taking into account the anticipated increase in bus usage during the summer months; [175019]

(2) what the estimated cost to the Torbay Unitary Authority will be of the nationwide concessionary bus fare scheme in 2008-09; what proportion of this will be funded by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [175020]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** On 6 December the Government announced the provisional allocations for the special grant to fund the costs of the new all-England bus concession commencing in April 2008. The grant allocation distributes £212 million to authorities using a formula based on data about bus patronage, retail floor space, visitors and eligible population.

Torbay's allocation for 2008-09 is £0.982 million. This represents a significant increase on its existing budget for concessionary travel. We are confident that the total being distributed to local authorities is sufficient in aggregate to cover all the costs of the new concession.

The special grant funding is only to meet the additional costs of the new concession. Existing funding for concessionary travel will continue to be distributed through the formula grant system (RSG). This is consistent with the wishes of local government to have freedom and flexibility in how they use their funding. Authorities are free to add local enhancements to the statutory minimum concession at their own discretion. However these enhancements must be funded locally.

## Bus Services: Tickets

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local authorities she expects to introduce smart cards or smart card technology for concessionary bus travel on 1 April 2008. [173890]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** From 1 April 2008 all 291 local authorities outside London who are responsible for administering concessionary travel schemes will be required to issue their passes in smartcard format. We are not requiring smart readers to be installed on all buses in England for April. In areas where there are no smart readers, the passes will simply be shown to the bus drivers as they are now.

The Government are committed to supporting local authorities in delivering the new smartcard pass. We have paid a grant of around £31 million pounds to pay for reasonable new cost burdens associated with issuing passes. We have also put in place a network of mentor authorities to provide additional advice and guidance to transport concessionary authorities (TCAs) and have a dedicated and experienced team within the Department to provide support to TCAs and to monitor their progress.

In addition we have put in place a framework agreement which TCAs can use to produce their smartcards, though they are free to other ITSO compliant smartcard producers if they wish. We have also put in place a number of other framework agreements offering related services, such as smartcard database management and the provision of equipment to allow TCAs to produce passes in-house.

### Buses: Antisocial Behaviour

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on tackling anti-social behaviour on buses. [168686]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with the Home Secretary on antisocial behaviour on buses, but work is being taken forward by officials. This is an issue we take seriously. My officials liaise with Home Office officials, among other stakeholders, through the Safer Travel on Buses Panel (STOP) which looks to disseminate good practice to the industry and relevant parties on tackling crime and antisocial behaviour in bus travel.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Authority and *(b)* the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police about anti-social behaviour on buses. [168687]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Secretary of State has not had recent discussions with either the Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Authority or the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police about antisocial behaviour on buses. My officials liaise with Metropolitan police, Transport for London, and Home Office officials, among other stakeholders, through the Safer Travel on Buses Panel (STOP) which looks to disseminate good practice to the industry and relevant parties on tackling crime and antisocial behaviour in bus travel.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of her Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168592]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published today by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement. I also refer the hon. Member to the statement of 17 December by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on measures to improve the security of personal data.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many items of post sent by her Department and its predecessors were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171293]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published today by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement. I also refer the hon. Member to the statement of 17 December by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on measures to improve the security of personal data.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what categories of information her Department and its agencies hold on individuals; who has access to that information in each case; and how the individuals concerned can ascertain *(a)* by whom and *(b)* for what purposes data held on them has been accessed. [168999]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published today by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement. I also refer the hon. Member to the statement of 17 December by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on measures to improve the security of personal data.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what reviews have been undertaken of her Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if she will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of her Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws; [168074]

(2) on how many occasions in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures her Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by her Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to her Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions her Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures her Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in her Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each of her Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168248]

(3) how many employees of each grade in her Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disk; how many of her Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) her Department and (ii) her Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of her Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168283]

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures are in place in her Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168462]

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168739]

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what mechanisms her Department has in place to ensure that databases containing personal information on members of the general public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised staff and *(b)* by authorised staff for unauthorised purposes; [169010]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (2) how many requests her Department received in each year since 1997 from the National Audit Office for access to databases containing personal information on members of the general public; [169011]

(3) how many times databases containing personal information on members of the general public held by her Department were accessed in each month in the last five years; [169012]

(4) how many staff have access to electronic databases which contain personal information on members of the general public in her Department, broken down by grade; [169013]

(5) how many security breaches regarding access to personal data there were within her Department in each year since 1997; [169014]

(6) for how many electronic databases containing *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information of members of the general public her Department is responsible; and in what year each database was set up. [169015]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she proposes to review how her Department transports data; and whether her Department uses TNT to transport data. [169384]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in her Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170245]

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171423]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by her Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168825]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's Agencies in each of the last five years; and if she will provide details of each breach. [168842]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the right hon. and hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published today by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement. I also refer the hon. Members to the statement of 17 December by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on measures to improve the security of personal data.

## Departmental Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by her Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by her Department for this purpose. [173816]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The central Department and its agencies have in place equality and diversity teams to ensure compliance with all equality legislation. These teams actively promote equality and diversity in the development of policy and in the treatment of their staff. However, the work of these teams is only a small part of the Department's diversity related activities.

Diversity activity is incorporated within all relevant functions of the Department. These activities meet the joint aims of promoting diversity and seeking to eliminate unlawful discriminatory activity. It is not possible to identify a total spend for promotional activity.

### Departmental ICT

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many attempted hacking or suspected cyber attacks or other malicious computer security breaches were committed against the computer systems of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last three years for which information is available; and if she will make a statement. [167976]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169042]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The percentage turnover of staff in the Department for Transport during the last two years for which data are available is as follows:

*Percentage staff turnover in the DFT*

| | Year ending 31 March | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2006 | 2007 |
| Highways Agency | 6.1 | 8.2 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 11.6 | 10.6 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 10.0 | 10.6 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | 6.0 | 16.0 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 12.0 | 10.0 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 20.0 | 14.0 |
| Department for Transport (Centre) | 16.0 | 14.0 |

Turnover rates in the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each civil service grade are employed by her Department. [172732]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The current staffing figures for the Department are:

| *Level* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| SCS level | 148 | 49 | 197 |
| Grades 6/7 | 905 | 297 | 1202 |
| All other levels | 10,125 | 7,579 | 17,704 |
| Totals | 11,178 | 7,925 | 19,103 |

### Departmental Pay

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Departmental employees were paid *(a)* over £60,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 per annum, inclusive of bonuses, in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [173107]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of departmental employees and its agencies earning over £60,000 a year is 337. The number of departmental employees and its agencies earning over £100,000 is 44. These results are from the last financial year.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste her Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172419]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is in the following table.

| | *Volume recycled (tonnes)* | *Recycled (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 2,077 | 53.0 |
| 2003-04 | 633 | 35.0 |
| 2004-05 | 3,123 | 69.7 |
| 2005-06 | 3,014 | 70.1 |
| 2006-07 | 2,214 | 57.1 |

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much and what proportion of its waste her Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174433]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given today (UIN 172419).

### Driving Under Influence: Accidents

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road traffic accidents were caused by *(a)* drink-driving and *(b)* drug-driving in each year since 1997, broken down by police force area; [173984]

(2) how many road accident fatalities was driving under the influence of drugs recorded as a causal or a contributory factor in each of the last five years. [173986]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: Drink drive estimates are calculated on a national basis. Police force area estimates are not available.

Information on whether or not drivers involved in accidents failed a drugs test is not available. However information is collected on whether or not "impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal)" was a contributory factor. The contributory factors reflect the reporting officer's opinion at the time of reporting and in the case of "impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal)" may not necessarily be the result of a drugs test. This information is not available broken down by police force area. This information for Great Britain is shown in the table.

*Reported personal injury road accidents in which "impairment by drugs (illicit or medicinal)" was reported as a contributory factor and the number of resulting fatalities: Great Britain 2005-06*

| | Accidents | Fatalities |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 673 | 62 |
| 2006 | 635 | 64 |

This information is not available for years prior to 2005.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many serious road injuries and fatalities were related to drink-driving in the *(a)* last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. [175044]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is available from table 3a of the 'Drinking and driving' article of 'Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 annual report'. Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/285672/Article3DrinkDrivetab1.xls

## DVLA: Data Protection

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on sending out letters of apology to people whose details have been lost in the most recent period for which figures are available. [174345]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This information is not routinely kept.

In the most recent exercise, on 7 December, letters of apology were despatched to 1,215 customers who had been part of an accuracy survey within which a mistake had been made by DVLA. The cost of this exercise was £405 in postage and £72 in printing and materials.

## Fisheries: Death

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK fishermen have died at sea in the last 12 months. [171685]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The accidental deaths of nine UK fishermen at sea from 1 December 2006 to 30 November 2007 have been reported to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

## Heathrow Airport

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she expects the *(a)* start and *(b)* completion of the planning process on a third runway at Heathrow; [170710]

(2) what flight caps she would expect to place on the use of a third runway at Heathrow in the period up to 2030. [170715]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government's current consultation on proposals for the future development of Heathrow airport closes on 27 February. If, following the consultation, policy approval is given for a third runway at Heathrow, it would be for the airport operator to take this forward in the planning system. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the timing or outcome of the planning process.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which data contained in the consultation document Adding Capacity at Heathrow were provided by BAA. [170711]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** As indicated in the 2003 "Future of Air Transport" White Paper, the Government have worked with BAA and other relevant bodies to examine how local limits on the development of a third runway could be met. The conclusions of this work are presented in the consultation "Adding Capacity at Heathrow" airport which the Government published on 22 November.

As well as the main consultation document, there are 14 supporting documents. The airport operator provided one of these relating to analysis of surface access impacts.

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many households will receive a paper copy of the Heathrow consultation summary in each borough. [170732]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Over 200,000 households around the airport were sent a copy of the Heathrow consultation summary and response form. By local authority area the break down is as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Bracknell Forest | 400 |
| Ealing | 4,600 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 22,700 |
| Hillingdon | 10,100 |
| Hounslow | 71,400 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 300 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 36,900 |
| Runnymede | 8,000 |
| Slough | 17,700 |
| South Bucks | 1,900 |
| Spelthorne | 3,500 |
| Wandsworth | 19,100 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 20,500 |

## Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to ensure that NOx emissions from an expanded Heathrow airport are below the limits set by EU law. [170703]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Our consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" sets out our analysis of the local air quality impacts of an expanded airport and indicates how we believe the EU limits could be met. As we say in that document (paragraph 3.186), if any proposals are taken forward to a planning application, it would be for the airport operator to demonstrate that appropriate mechanisms are in place to monitor the situation and regulate activity on the airport in the event of approaching the environmental limits. In the light of legal obligations to meet the air quality limit values, the airport operator, Government and other agencies would need to work together in devising and implementing any necessary mitigation measures.

## Heathrow Airport: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the likely effect on *(a)* emissions of all major pollutants and *(b)* noise of (i) the realignment of the M4 spur to the east, (ii) the proposed reconfiguration of local roads and (iii) the A4 passing in a tunnel under the taxiways linking the existing airport to the new runway and terminal as suggested in the consultation on Heathrow expansion; [171795]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of people who would experience an increase in *(a)* emissions of all major pollutants and *(b)* noise due to (i) the realignment of the M4 spur to the east, (ii) the proposed reconfiguration of local roads and (iii) the A4 passing in a tunnel under the taxiways linking the existing airport to the new runway and terminal as suggested in the consultation on Heathrow expansion. [171796]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Estimated emissions and noise effects of future development at Heathrow are set out in the consultation 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' and the supporting technical reports. Emissions effects are attributed to sources—aircraft, roads and other—and do not separately identify those arising from potential changes in road layouts around the airport. Chapter 7 of the accompanying technical report on 'Surface Access' includes some assessment of noise impacts on surrounding roads under certain options.

## Heathrow Airport: Noise

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has carried out studies comparing noise insulation schemes at Heathrow with other airports *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* elsewhere in the world. [170699]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** No studies have been carried out. However the 'Future of Air Transport' White Paper introduced an improved benchmark for providing insulation at all the larger airports including Heathrow. This means that since 2003 airport operators have been expected to:

> Offer households subject to high levels of noise (69dBALeq or more) assistance with the costs of relocating; and
>
> Offer acoustic insulation (as applied to residential properties) to other noise-sensitive buildings, such as schools and hospitals, exposed to medium to high levels of noise (63dBA Leq or more).

In addition, as part of the consultation on the night flying restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted in 2006, the Secretary of State outlined possible criteria for a noise insulation scheme to mitigate for night noise. Following consultation, the Secretary of State decided that the boundary of the scheme should be based on the noise footprint of the noisiest aircraft regularly operating at the airports and the policy should be implemented on a voluntary basis initially.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will strengthen the obligations on BAA to insulate buildings under Heathrow's flightpaths. [170700]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In the White Paper "The Future of Air Transport", we asked UK airport operators to consult on details of voluntary schemes to address 'generalised blight', to offer acoustic insulation to noise sensitive buildings such as schools and hospitals that are exposed to medium-to-high levels of aircraft noise, and to offer home relocation assistance to households subject to high levels of aircraft noise.

BAA has put in place two schemes to mitigate the impacts of blight arising from a proposed third runway at Heathrow, and two schemes to mitigate the impacts of current aircraft noise. The two blight compensation schemes would be triggered at the point BAA decided to apply for planning permission to build a third runway. The two noise compensation schemes are currently active and eligible properties and community buildings have been contacted directly about how the schemes affect them. There are no plans to change these existing voluntary arrangements.

Early next year BAA will go out to public consultation on airport noise action plans, and as part of this process, they will engage with local communities to seek their views on how the effectiveness of existing noise mitigation and compensation schemes can be improved.

## Heathrow Airport: Public Transport

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what targets she plans to set for the proportion of people using public transport to travel to and from Heathrow airport; [170704]

(2) what sanctions she plans to apply should BAA fail to meet targets set for the proportion of people using public transport to travel to and from Heathrow airport; [170705]

(3) what estimate she has made of the proportion of people travelling to and from Heathrow airport who used public transport to do so in each of the last 10 years. [170706]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department does not collect annual statistics on the proportion of people accessing Heathrow airport by public transport. However, our recent discussion document "Improving the Air

Passenger Experience" shows that the public transport share of journeys for 1996 and 2006 was around 35 per cent., while the proportion of trips by private car fell from 38 per cent. to 34 per cent. over the period. The same document goes on to describe improvements planned or under consideration, including Crossrail, the AirTrack scheme and enhancements to the Piccadilly line services.

### Heathrow Airport: Roads

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what decision she has made on road demand management measures *(a)* on the M4 and M25 in relation to Heathrow access and *(b)* in relation to local roads around Heathrow; [170707]

(2) whether she has plans to implement congestion charging along road access routes to Heathrow. [170708]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Our consultation "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" and the supporting "Surface Access" technical report describe a range of possible demand management measures, including congestion charging, which were examined in the course of assessing the options for further Heathrow development. No such measures are thought necessary in order to ensure that local air quality limits are met in the vicinity of an expanded airport, if, after consultation, policy approval for airport expansion is confirmed, it would be for the airport operator, as part of a comprehensive transport assessment, to work with the Highways Agency and local authorities to identify the extent of any action to be taken.

### Heathrow Airport: Trade Unions

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings her Department has had with trade unions in the past three years in relation to expansion of Heathrow, broken down by *(a)* trade union and *(b)* date of meeting; and if she will make a statement. [173210]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: Ministers and DfT officials have had a number of meetings with unions—on an individual basis or as part of a wider group—in the last three years to discuss a range of issues. I met TUC, T and G, GMB, Amicus, Balpa and Unite on the 22 November 2007 as part of a series of stakeholder briefings that day to launch the Heathrow consultation.

### Heavy Goods Vehicles

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the safety of longer heavier vehicles (LHVs) on *(a)* motorways and *(b)* other roads in relation to road traffic incidents involving other road users; and what assessment she has made of the effect on safety of left-hand drive LHVs using British roads. [169511]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: The safety of such vehicles is currently being assessed in a study commissioned in December 2005 by the then Minister of State for Transport, the hon. Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman). The study is due to report shortly, but the Secretary of State has previously made clear that it would take a great deal of persuasion for the Government to allow longer, heavier vehicles in the UK.

### Highways Agency

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the compliance of Highways Agency traffic officers with regulations on working time. [173603]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** To date, a centralised method has not been available to monitor the compliance of Highways Agency traffic officers with working time regulations. However, the agency recognises the need to implement a method of assessment which facilitates both local and central monitoring.

As it moves towards implementation of Shared Services with Department for Transport and its other agencies, it is exploring in more detail how an electronic solution might best assist in the management and monitoring of working time. To that end, the agency is to implement a "standard" timesheet across the Traffic Officer Service by February 2008. By implementing the new timesheet the agency will be able to monitor working time in more detail.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what pay comparability studies have been undertaken in respect of traffic officers in the Highways Agency; and what the results have been. [173604]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** In late 2005 the Highways Agency (HA) undertook a pay comparability review of the Traffic Officer Service roles.

The results of the review were largely inconclusive in that, at the time, the roles within the HA were relatively new and many regions were still developing towards full service. As such, it was difficult to identify valid external comparators.

As a result, the HA has recently commissioned a benchmark review against Traffic Officer Service roles, as part of an overall review of reward across the agency.

The results of this work will inform the reward strategy we aim to develop for the period 2008 to 2011.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for terms and conditions for new Highways Agency traffic officers. [173605]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Terms and conditions of employment for Traffic Officers have been subject to on-going development in full consultation with the trade unions since the implementation of the service in 2004.

A dedicated team continues to work closely with the trade unions to ensure terms and conditions of employment remain compliant with best practice.

A comprehensive review of all terms and conditions of employment is in progress and scheduled to conclude in autumn 2008.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations the Prospect Union made on behalf of its traffic officer members in this year's pay talks; and what the Highways Agency's response was to each such representation. [173606]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Representations by Prospect at this year's pay talks have focused on their aim to achieve an award for their members that at least matches RPI inflation, the level of shift allowances, the methodology used to determine pay levels at the inception of the Traffic Officer Service and the pay differential between control room operators (mainly represented by the PCS Union) and on-road Traffic Officers, represented by Prospect.

The Highways Agency has responded that is it obliged to comply with Government policy on civil service pay and has to work within the pay remit approved by HM Treasury. It believes the offer for Prospect members in the Traffic Officer Service is the best that can be achieved within that policy and the approved remit. Higher shift allowances are not achievable except at the expense of the pay award for other Highways Agency employees. The Agency is undertaking a strategic review of its reward package and aims to review the pay and allowances for Traffic Officers as part of that work.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average overtime in hours worked per month per Highways Agency traffic officer was in the last 12 months. [173607]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** In the last 12 months a total of 48,289 hours overtime has been worked by 1,011 control room operators and on-road Traffic Officers. This equates to around four hours per person per month.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the health and safety arrangements are in respect of traffic officers within the Highways Agency; and what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of those arrangements. [173608]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The design of the Health and Safety arrangements in respect of Traffic Officers is compliant with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, its subordinate legislation, guidance and codes of practice, and the Highways Agency's own Health and Safety Policy. The Traffic Operations Director has recently written to senior managers in the Traffic Officer Service to remind them of their responsibilities in relation to health and safety.

Assessment of adherence is maintained through an internal audit programme which reports to Agency Senior Management.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average pay increase given to traffic officers in the Highways Agency in each annual pay round since the formation of their grade was; and what the retail price index inflation rate at the end of those pay years was. [173609]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The information requested is given in the following table for Traffic Officers within the control room (TM1A) and on road Traffic Officers (TM1B):

| | *Percentage* | | *RPI* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at August each year* | *TM1A* | *TM1B* | *Month/year* | *Percentage* |
| 2004 | 4.5 | 4.9 | July 2005 | 2.9 |
| 2005 | 3 | 3 | July 2006 | 3.3 |
| 2006 | 3 | 3 | July 2007 | 3.8 |

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the turnover rate of traffic officers in the Highways Agency in each year since the grade was established. [173611]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The information requested for all traffic officer service posts is given in the table as follows:

| *Grade* | *Staff in post* | *Leavers* | *Turnover rate* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2004* | | | |
| TM1 A—Traffic Officer Control Room | 21 | 10 | 47.62 |
| TM1 B—Traffic Officer On Road | 80 | 14 | 17.50 |
| TM2—Team Manager | 21 | 0 | 0.00 |
| TM3—Network Operation Manager | 6 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 8N—Operation Manager | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| *2005* | | | |
| TM1A | 147 | 17 | 11.56 |
| TM1B | 515 | 28 | 5.44 |
| TM2 | 161 | 4 | 2.48 |
| TM3 | 28 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 8N | 8 | 0 | 0.00 |
| *2006* | | | |
| TM1A | 231 | 31 | 13.42 |
| TM1B | 925 | 52 | 5.62 |
| TM2 | 215 | 9 | 4.19 |
| TM3 | 34 | 2 | 5.88 |
| 8N | 7 | 0 | 0.00 |
| *2007* | | | |
| TM1A | 313 | 59 | 18.85 |
| TM1B | 927 | 71 | 7.66 |
| TM2 | 220 | 8 | 3.64 |
| TM3 | 35 | 1 | 2.86 |
| 8N | 8 | 2 | 25.00 |

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether traffic officers within the Highways Agency are asked to give reasons as to why they leave Crown employment. [173612]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Exit interviews are undertaken for all staff who leave the Agency, including those working in the Traffic Officer Service. These are completed by line managers in a standard format and are submitted to Human Resource Customer Services Division, who check to see if there is any action to be taken on an individual case-by-case basis before filing the form on the individual's file.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the pay *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum for the Highway Agency's traffic officers was in each pay year since that grade was established; and what range is proposed for traffic officers in the 2007 pay round. [173615]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The minimum and maximum for the relevant years are shown in the table. TM1A staff are control room operators and TM1B staff are on-road Traffic Officers. These rates do not include shift allowances, which are paid at 12.5 per cent. or 20 per cent. according to shift pattern.

| | *Grade* | *Minimum* | *Maximum* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | TM1A | 14,000 | 16,842 |
| | TM1B | 15,800 | 20,000 |
| 2004-05 | TM1A | 14,280 | 16,842 |
| | TM1B | 16,171 | 20,000 |
| 2005-06 | TM1A | 15,079 | 17,928 |
| | TM1B | 16,659 | 20,302 |
| 2006-07 | TM1A | 15,923 | 18,466 |
| | TM1B | 17,162 | 20,912 |
| 2007-08 (Proposed) | TM1A | 16,719 | 18,466 |
| | TM1B | 17,248 | 20,912 |

## HM Coastguard: Scotland

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many hours the east coast of Scotland was without HM Coastguard search and rescue helicopter support in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [173683]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is not aware of any instances when Coastguard Search and Rescue Helicopter support was unavailable on the east coast of Scotland during 2007.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many search and rescue helicopters are available to HM Coastguard in Scotland; how many such helicopters would be needed to provide full-time helicopter cover for coastguard services in Scotland; and if she will make a statement. [173684]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are currently a total of eight search and rescue helicopters available to HM Coastguard in Scotland providing full-time coverage for maritime search and rescue.

## Milton Keynes Central Station: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effects work being undertaken at Milton Keynes Central train station will have on Milton Keynes commuters when the work is completed. [174580]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The enlarged Milton Keynes Central station was justified on the basis that the town could be served by an increased frequency of inter city trains linking Milton Keynes with the north and that the commuter services would be able to operate more resiliency on the slow lines. It is also making provision for a possible new service towards Bedford or Oxford. It was not practicable, because of intense line and train occupation to change the decision in the 2003 Strategy for the route to provide new capacity so that peak hour commuter traffic, between Milton Keynes and London, will be handled by the Silverlink (now London Midland) services.

## Motor Vehicles: Testing

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of proposals to move frequency of MOT testing for road vehicles to the EU minimum frequency. [174292]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have made an initial assessment which will be issued for consultation in the new year.

## Motorway Service Areas: Competition

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to introduce more competition into the operation of motorway service areas. [173800]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency has recently carried out a public consultation on a proposed new policy for roadside facilities in England.

The proposed policy would allow the private sector, which is responsible for providing services, to bring forward proposals for motorway rest areas as an alternative to the standard motorway service area. A rest area would have some but not all of the facilities normally provided at a service area.

The revised policy should encourage the private sector to think of innovative ways to improve services and increase competition.

Responses to the consultation are now being considered before the new policy is published next year.

## Motorways: Accidents

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of motorway accidents in 2006. [173799]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The exchequer cost of motorway accidents in Great Britain 2006 is estimated to be £23.9 million in 2006 prices. This estimate is based on the number of injury and non-injury motorway accidents in 2006 and the accident prevention unit values that are used in transport appraisals.

In 2006 there were 164 fatal accidents, 789 serious accidents and 7,426 slight accidents reported on motorways in Great Britain. In addition, there were an estimated 63,680 damage-only accidents on motorways. The exchequer costs include medical, ambulance and police costs.

The accident prevention values are taken from the Department's 'Highways Economic Note No. 1 (HEN1) 2005 Valuation of the Benefits of Prevention of Road Accidents and Casualties' and have been uprated for 2006.

Using the accident values in HEN1, the total cost to society of all motorway accidents in Great Britain in 2006 is estimated to have been £815 million (2006 prices). In addition to the Exchequer costs, this figure also includes estimates of the human costs, based on values that people are willing to pay to reduce pain, grief and suffering, the administrative costs of insurance, damage to vehicles and property and the value of lost output, including non-wage payments.

### National Identity Register

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established; and what the estimated cost to her Department of that use is. [174036]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The only part of the Department that has plans to use the National Identity Register (NIR), when established, is the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

DVLA has been working for some time with Home Office and Immigration and Passport Service (IPS) to ensure that the new Driver Register system it is currently developing can make best use of the National Identity Register (NIR) when this is established. The new DVLA systems already interact with IPS Passport systems and as the NIR is established the intention would be for DVLA to rely more on the ID verification provided by the new register and avoid the duplication in activities that currently have to take place as DVLA are required to carry out their own verification. This has been reported publicly in the ID scheme business case as the major benefit expected for DVLA. Having designed its new systems with this in mind, changing the interaction from IPS systems into the newer and more robust systems expected for NIR would have only marginal cost for DVLA.

### Passports: Lost Property

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passports sent to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) were subsequently reported missing in the last 12 months; and how many owners of passports lost by the DVLA have claimed compensation. [171190]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DVLA does not hold information on the number of passports sent but not subsequently received at the agency. In the past year DVLA has paid compensation for the replacement of 217 passports where there have been claims that the agency has lost them and 756 where the Royal Mail has accepted responsibility for their loss. DVLA handles and returns more than 1.5 million identity documents belonging to its customers each year.

### Railways

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* her officials and *(b)* business representatives on the construction of further high-speed rail lines in the UK. [173617]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Secretary of State has regular discussions with officials on all aspects of rail policy, including high-speed lines, in the normal course of business. The Secretary of State also has regular discussions with business representatives to discuss a range of transport issues.

### Railways: Electrification

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely effect on carbon dioxide emissions of the full electrification of *(a)* the Great Western railway line and *(b)* the Midland mainline; and what estimate she has made of the cost of each. [170751]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Railway Safety and Standards Board has published a report which considers the impact of future electrification. The report sets out the discounted costs and the 60 year value of carbon reduction in monetised form related to a number of options for electrification of the Great Western and Midland main lines. The costs are for the construction of the Electrification Infrastructure, excluding the cost of new rolling stock.

*£ million*

| *Line* | *Carbon benefit* | *Cost of electrification* |
|---|---|---|
| Great Western mainline | 66 | 649 |
| Midland mainline | 38 | 301 |

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely effect on reliability of the full electrification of *(a)* the Great Western railway line and *(b)* the Midlands Mainline. [170752]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Railway Safety and Standards Board has published a report which considers the impact of future electrification. The expected effect on reliability of inter-city routes such as Great Western and Midlands Main line is broadly neutral. The enhanced reliability of electric trains compared with diesels is offset by dependence on the integrity of the catenary system which distributes electricity to the trains.

### Railways: Fares

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will make a statement about rises in rail fares; [163298]

(2) what discussions her officials have had with train operating companies on the effect on fares of increases in franchise premia payments. [163476]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has had no discussions with train operating companies on the effect on fares of increases in franchise premia payments.

The Government protect commuters by limiting most operators to average increases in regulated fares of no more than 1 per cent. above inflation each year over the life of the franchise. Most saver return tickets (long distance, off-peak fares) are also regulated at the same levels. We have pledged to keep this cap in place for at least the next seven years.

More than half of rail journeys are made on a regulated ticket, and around 80 per cent. of passengers buy either a regulated or discounted ticket. Regulated fares are no higher now in real terms than they were at privatisation.

Unregulated fares are a matter for the train operators, but increases are kept under review by Government.

The Department continues to listen to the representations of train users and has invited Passenger Focus to take a greater role in commenting on the specification of future franchises.

### Railways: Northern Region

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions have taken place with Northern franchise in 2007 on new rolling stock on lines out of Manchester. [173576]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has held various discussions with Northern Rail during 2007 about the provision of rolling stock new to the franchise. These discussions have centred, firstly, around the procurement by Northern Rail of additional class 158 rolling stock, replacing a number of class 142 units and, secondly, around the publication of the High Level Output Specification and provision of new rolling stock in the period between 2009 and 2014.

In the first instance, deployment of additional rolling stock procured commercially by Northern Rail is a matter for the company and no specific discussions have been held regarding services on lines out of Manchester. In the second instance, discussions have been held at a high level and no decisions have yet been made on deployment of new vehicles between 2009 and 2014.

### Railways: Portsmouth

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis is of the stated need to increase the capacity on the Portsmouth mainline and use high density suburban rolling stock; and if she will make a statement. [172817]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Network Rail has undertaken a route utilisation strategy for the South West Main Line (March 2006), and this confirmed that there was no capacity for running additional trains in the morning peak period of 07.30 to 09.30.

Stagecoach South Western has therefore addressed the need to accommodate passenger demand within the infrastructure available. While recognising that this may not be met with universal approval, the fact that a 12-car Class 450 ("blue") train can offer an additional 140 seats compared to a 10-car Class 444 ("white") train should mean that fewer passengers need to stand on the Portsmouth line trains particularly for stations closer to London.

### Railways: South East Region

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effect on rates of passenger car usage in the region served by the South Eastern rail franchise in 2008 as a result of recent changes to fares under the franchise. [173232]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** An assessment was made prior to the re-letting of the South Eastern franchise. This incorporated value for money testing of each franchise specification option, which included the proposal for inflation plus 3 per cent. on regulated fares. This proposal showed passenger growth in excess of that forecast for the country as a whole in the present White Paper and these estimates formed the basis of what was contractualised in the South Eastern franchise.

So far, South Eastern passenger journeys have increased by 5 per cent. in 2007, the first year of the RPI+3 regime for regulated fares.

The Department continues to listen to the representations of train operators and has invited Passenger Focus to take a greater role in commenting on the specification of future franchises.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents which caused *(a)* injury and *(b)* death there were on roads in (i) Ribble Valley and (ii) Lancashire in each of the last five years, broken down by age and sex of the victims. [174444]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of reported personal injury road accidents which caused *(a)* injury (serious or slight) and *(b)* death in (i) Ribble Valley and (ii) Lancashire in each of the last five years, broken down by age and gender of the casualty is shown in the tables.

*Ribble Valley*[1]

*Number of accidents*

| | | *2002* | | *2003* | | *2004* | | *2005* | | *2006* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Gender* | *Age* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* |
| Male | Under 17 | 32 | 2 | 27 | 1 | 38 | 0 | 39 | 0 | 37 | 2 |
| | 17-19 | 34 | 2 | 30 | 1 | 41 | 1 | 32 | 1 | 41 | 0 |
| | 20-24 | 39 | 2 | 34 | 4 | 28 | 2 | 45 | 4 | 45 | 1 |

*Ribble Valley*[1]

*Number of accidents*

| *Gender* | *Age* | *2002* | | *2003* | | *2004* | | *2005* | | *2006* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* |
| | 25-29 | 26 | 1 | 29 | 3 | 24 | 2 | 29 | 0 | 30 | 2 |
| | 30-34 | 30 | 2 | 28 | 1 | 28 | 0 | 32 | 2 | 22 | 1 |
| | 35-39 | 23 | 0 | 29 | 1 | 27 | 0 | 25 | 1 | 28 | 2 |
| | 40-49 | 39 | 1 | 43 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 45 | 2 | 41 | 1 |
| | 50-59 | 29 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 39 | 1 | 28 | 0 |
| | 60-69 | 19 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 23 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 14 | 2 |
| | 70+ | 16 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 15 | 1 |
| | Total[2] | 241 | 7 | 236 | 7 | 248 | 2 | 272 | 11 | 242 | 6 |
| Female | Under 17 | 30 | 0 | 23 | 1 | 28 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| | 17-19 | 31 | 2 | 23 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 24 | 3 |
| | 20-24 | 19 | 1 | 28 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 29 | 1 |
| | 25-29 | 23 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 27 | 1 |
| | 30-34 | 20 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| | 35-39 | 13 | 1 | 21 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 31 | 0 |
| | 40-49 | 38 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 28 | 1 | 35 | 0 |
| | 50-59 | 28 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| | 60-69 | 15 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 13 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| | 70+ | 16 | 2 | 15 | 2 | 18 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| | Total[2] | 202 | 4 | 187 | 3 | 187 | 1 | 185 | 3 | 192 | 3 |

*Lancashire*[3]

*Number of accidents*

| *Gender* | *Age* | *2002* | | *2003* | | *2004* | | *2005* | | *2006* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* | *Injury* | *Fatal* |
| Male | Under 17 | 712 | 6 | 689 | 11 | 661 | 7 | 667 | 5 | 619 | 8 |
| | 17-19 | 434 | 8 | 432 | 13 | 461 | 8 | 450 | 7 | 490 | 8 |
| | 20-24 | 518 | 14 | 473 | 16 | 499 | 11 | 538 | 15 | 540 | 17 |
| | 25-29 | 449 | 13 | 332 | 14 | 371 | 7 | 396 | 8 | 380 | 5 |
| | 30-34 | 436 | 7 | 366 | 9 | 405 | 7 | 385 | 10 | 362 | 9 |
| | 35-39 | 394 | 9 | 373 | 6 | 398 | 6 | 373 | 10 | 407 | 8 |
| | 40-49 | 548 | 6 | 514 | 10 | 578 | 9 | 565 | 15 | 589 | 8 |
| | 50-59 | 358 | 3 | 346 | 6 | 383 | 10 | 367 | 10 | 363 | 6 |
| | 60-69 | 185 | 3 | 192 | 5 | 202 | 2 | 192 | 6 | 177 | 8 |
| | 70+ | 192 | 12 | 153 | 13 | 158 | 6 | 184 | 13 | 171 | 7 |
| | Total[2] | 3,692 | 52 | 3,408 | 69 | 3,597 | 46 | 3,553 | 75 | 3,472 | 56 |
| Female | Under 17 | 502 | 1 | 414 | 7 | 461 | 3 | 450 | 3 | 418 | 5 |
| | 17-19 | 296 | 6 | 255 | 6 | 272 | 3 | 296 | 1 | 304 | 6 |
| | 20-24 | 399 | 3 | 370 | 3 | 390 | 2 | 380 | 2 | 422 | 2 |
| | 25-29 | 346 | 3 | 284 | 3 | 293 | 2 | 336 | 3 | 312 | 1 |
| | 30-34 | 362 | 1 | 311 | 1 | 307 | 1 | 276 | 3 | 267 | 1 |
| | 35-39 | 311 | 2 | 267 | 4 | 232 | 0 | 322 | 0 | 305 | 1 |
| | 40-49 | 442 | 1 | 411 | 3 | 449 | 3 | 467 | 7 | 442 | 6 |
| | 50-59 | 344 | 1 | 303 | 7 | 287 | 3 | 327 | 4 | 294 | 2 |
| | 60-69 | 195 | 3 | 193 | 4 | 163 | 2 | 178 | 2 | 178 | 5 |
| | 70+ | 198 | 12 | 201 | 11 | 183 | 3 | 187 | 9 | 196 | 3 |
| | Total[2] | 2,877 | 25 | 2,572 | 33 | 2,621 | 21 | 2,714 | 30 | 2,679 | 25 |

[1] Ribble Valley constituency, based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

[2] May be less than the sum of the age bands as an accident may involve casualties from more than one age band. Also includes cases where age is missing.

[3] Includes Lancashire county council, Blackburn and Blackpool.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken in the last 10 years to reduce road casualties. [174445]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In 2000, we published 'Tomorrow's Roads: Safer for Everyone', our road safety strategy to 2010. This contained a wealth of actions to educate road users, improve the road environment and enforce road safety offences. The strategy also contained a commitment to achieve by 2010:

a 40 per cent. reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents;

a 50 per cent. reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured; and

a 10 per cent. reduction in the slight casualty rate.

A review of the strategy earlier this year found that, while there was a need to improve further in a number of respects, progress against the targets was good:

the number of people killed or seriously injured was 33 per cent. down;

the number of children killed or seriously injured was 52 per cent. down; and

the slight casualty rate was 28 per cent. down.

We expect to consult next year on a strategy for the period from 2010.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents there were which resulted in *(a)* injury and *(b)* death on the (i) A59 and (ii) M6 within the borders of Lancashire County Council area in each of the last 10 years; and what the ratio of these figures was to total traffic volume in each year. [174448]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is given in the tables.

*Reported personal injury road accidents which resulted in injury (serious or slight) or death on the A59 and M6 in Lancashire county council, 1997 to 2006*

*Number of accidents*

| | A59 | | M6 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Non-fatal injury accidents* | *Fatal accidents* | *Non-fatal injury accidents* | *Fatal accidents* |
| 1997 | 185 | 7 | 245 | 4 |
| 1998 | 163 | 3 | 214 | 6 |
| 1999 | 181 | 4 | 197 | 5 |
| 2000 | 170 | 2 | 165 | 3 |
| 2001 | 185 | 3 | 139 | 4 |
| 2002 | 168 | 2 | 165 | 1 |
| 2003 | 134 | 0 | 155 | 5 |
| 2004 | 162 | 2 | 194 | 3 |
| 2005 | 182 | 7 | 145 | 7 |
| 2006 | 159 | 5 | 154 | 2 |

*Reported personal injury road accidents per 100 million vehicle kilometres which resulted in injury (serious or slight) and death on the A59 or M6 in Lancashire county council, 1997 to 2006*

*Number of accidents per 100 million vehicle kilometres*

| | A59 | | M6 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Non-fatal injury accidents* | *Fatal accidents* | *Non-fatal injury accidents* | *Fatal accidents* |
| 1997 | 41.29 | 1.56 | 14.55 | 0.24 |
| 1998 | 36.12 | 0.66 | 12.09 | 0.34 |
| 1999 | 39.81 | 0.88 | 10.23 | 0.26 |
| 2000 | 39.72 | 0.46 | 9.30 | 0.17 |
| 2001 | 42.01 | 0.68 | 7.67 | 0.22 |
| 2002 | 39.15 | 0.47 | 8.59 | 0.05 |
| 2003 | 30.02 | 0.00 | 8.29 | 0.27 |
| 2004 | 34.90 | 0.43 | 9.47 | 0.15 |
| 2005 | 39.02 | 1.50 | 7.08 | 0.34 |
| 2006 | 33.76 | 1.06 | 7.44 | 0.10 |

## Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road projects were *(a)* listed, *(b)* completed on time and *(c)* completed on budget in each of the last five Highways Agency business plans. [163228]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The number of road projects *(a)* listed, *(b)* completed on time and *(c)* completed on budget in each of the last five Highways Agency Business Plans is listed in the following table. This information was previously supplied to the NAO and was used in their report on "Estimating and monitoring the costs of building roads in England" published in March 2007.

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Number of projects listed in the business plan | 57 | 68 | 91 | 89 | 79 |
| Number of projects planned to complete in year of business plan | 6 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 10 |
| *(b)* Number of projects completed on time | 6 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 10 |
| *(c)* Number of projects completed within ministerially approved budgets | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Number of projects completed within ministerially approved budgets +5 per cent. | 0 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Number of projects completed within ministerially approved budgets +10 per cent. | 0 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 |

## Roads: Tolls

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she will take to monitor and incentivise local authorities' compliance with the Disability Equality Duty when they develop and implement road user charging schemes. [175416]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department has published guidance that reminds local authorities of legislation to be taken into account when preparing road pricing schemes. This includes the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has responsibility for enforcing the Disability Equality Duty and they can take legal action against public sector organisations that have not done as they are required.

### Roads: Weymouth

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's plans are for the proposed Weymouth relief road; and if she will make a statement. [174381]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Dorset county council recently informed the Department that there has been an increase in the cost of the scheme. As a result, it will be necessary to undertake a re-appraisal of the scheme at the higher cost against the Department's value for money criteria. The council is now in the process of preparing an updated business case.

### Rolling Stock

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the acceptable tolerances are for *(a)* the seat back angle and *(b)* amount of legroom of a railway carriage seat; and what the figures for each are for a seat on a Desiro 450 carriage. [175145]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** There is no specified acceptable tolerances for seat back angle or amount of legroom.

The Department does not hold the specific measurements for different rolling stock.

The seats on a Desiro 450 meet ATOC vehicle standard for vehicle interior crashworthiness (AV/ST 9001).

### Severn Bridge: Tolls

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 605W, on Severn Bridge: Tolls, what the total revenue was from tolls on the Severn Bridges in each year since 1992. [173551]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The total revenue received from the Severn Bridges tolls, net of value added tax (VAT), is set out in the following table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1992[1] | [1]21.991 |
| 1993 | 34.366 |
| 1994 | 39.197 |
| 1995 | 43.774 |
| 1996 | 47.155 |
| 1997 | 51.112 |
| 1998 | 55.241 |
| 1999 | 59.832 |
| 2000 | 60.996 |
| 2001 | 66.514 |
| 2002 | 70.544 |
| 2003 | 64.413 |
| 2004 | 66.371 |
| 2005 | 69.499 |
| 2006 | 72.008 |

[1] The amount for 1992 is from the commencement of the Severn Bridges Concession on 26 April 1992.

VAT was applied to the Severn Bridges tolls from the 1 February 2003.

The figure for 2007 is not yet available.

### South West Trains: Rolling Stock

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 857W, on ports, if she will place in the Library a full copy of the ergonomic study on the Desiro Class 450s rolling stock. [173240]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** South West Trains commissioned an independent ergonomic assessment of the seating design and layout of the Class 450 units.

The report findings are available on the South West Trains website.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 431W, who *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* financed the ergonomic study; whether (i) her Department and (ii) passengers were consulted as part of the study; and if she will make a statement. [175144]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The ergonomic report was commissioned and financed by South West Trains in response to customer feedback with regard to Class 450 seating.

The Department and Passenger Focus were advised that the study was going to be undertaken.

South West Trains advise that no passengers were consulted as part of the ergonomic study.

### Stansted Airport

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's policy is on the proposed development of Stansted airport. [171393]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The 2003 "Future of Air Transport" White Paper supported two new runways in the south east by 2030, the first at Stansted. The Government's current consultation "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" is consistent with that policy. The operator of Stansted airport expects to be in a position to submit a planning application around the turn of the year.

### Sustainable Operations

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department met the target in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate document to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. [171979]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport reduced its actual energy consumption in 2006-07 by 2,240,528 kWh. However, after the application of the weather correction factor the Department is showing an increase of 1.87 per cent. in terms of carbon emissions.

### Taxis: Disabled

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she intends to issue guidance on the accessibility of taxis for disabled people. [175076]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government recognise the vital role that taxis play in the transportation of disabled people and we are committed to delivering more accessible taxis. We need to choose the best way in which to deliver an increased number of taxis that are accessible to people with all types of disability.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, the Government have powers to regulate in this area. There are, however, advantages and disadvantages associated with regulation and, in light of the Government's better regulation agenda, we are currently re-evaluating all the options, both regulatory and non-regulatory. We will announce our proposals shortly.

In the meantime, we are encouraging taxi licensing authorities to ensure that local policies take account of the needs of all taxi users. The Department issued best practice guidance to local authorities in 2006. Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act also now applies to both hackney cabs and private hire vehicles and it gives disabled people a "right of access" to goods, services and facilities.

Taxi drivers now have to take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled people are able to use their vehicles, but they do not have to modify the vehicle itself. The Disability Rights Commission (now superseded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission) issued guidance in 2007 on what may be considered reasonable in relation to disabled people and access to taxis.

### Taxis: Exhaust Emissions

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the durability in service of emission control systems retro-fitted to London licensed Hackney Carriages. [174893]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Energy Saving Trust (EST) carried out durability trials on behalf of the Department for Transport in 2005 and 2006 for taxis retro-fitted with emissions abatement systems. The taxis were subject to a 10,000 mile durability trial followed by a final emissions test. The results of the trial will be made available in the House of Commons Library shortly.

Currently companies can apply to EST to carry out emissions testing on their behalf which are then passed to the Public Carriage Office for approval of the systems. To date 17 such durability trials have taken place.

### Trains: Standards

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 856W, on trains: standards, what opportunities her Department has given passengers on Desiro Class 450 trains to submit their views on the level of comfort afforded by such rolling stock. [172822]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Stagecoach South Western has carried out an ergonomic study in response to questions and feedback from a number of customers who remain discontent with the comfort of the new Class 450 rolling stock. The findings of this report have been independently reviewed by Passenger Focus, the passenger representation body and have been made public by SSWT on their website.

### Transport for London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the gross *(a)* assets and *(b)* liabilities of Transport for London are; and what they were before Metronet entered into administration. [171787]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** TfL's audited accounts, including its balance sheet, can be found on the TfL website. TfL provide quarterly financial and operational updates, which can also be found on their website.

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what Transport for London's liabilities net of assets are; what they are expected to be in each year to 2015; and how much of the liability in each year is expected to arise from the administration of Metronet. [171970]

**Ms. Rosie Winterton:** TfL's audited accounts, including its balance sheet, can be found on the TfL website. TfL provide quarterly financial and operational updates, which can also be found on their website.

Future estimates of net liabilities or liabilities associated with Metronet are currently unknown.

## HEALTH

### Ambulance Services: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average response time by ambulance crews to emergency call-outs in (i) Ribble Valley constituency and (ii) Lancashire was in each of the last 60 months; [175084]

(2) what his Department's plans are for the future *(a)* numbers and *(b)* mix of (i) solo responder (ii) double crew and (iii) other ambulance crews in the North West Strategic Health Authority area; [175085]

(3) how many ambulance crews have been operated by ambulance trusts within the North West Strategic Health Authority area in each of the last 10 years; [175086]

(4) what the cost was of providing *(a)* solo responder, *(b)* double crew and *(c)* other ambulance services in each of the ambulance trusts within the North West Strategic Health Authority area in each of the last 10 years; [175087]

(5) how many *(a)* solo responder, *(b)* double crew and *(c)* other ambulance services have been operated by ambulance trusts within the North West Strategic Health Authority area in each of the last 10 years. [175088]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not available in the format requested.

The ambulance response-time data that are collected, and which include the number of emergency calls received by ambulance trusts across England and their performance against the targets set, are published annually. The latest statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07" was published in June 2007, a copy is available in the Library and includes data for the North West Ambulance Service Trust. The data are not collected or reported on below ambulance trust level.

Changing the way we measure response times to emergency calls will save lives. Implementing call connect, where the clock start time is taken from the moment an emergency call is connected to the local ambulance control room, will result in shorter waits for 999 calls to be answered and ambulances dispatched more quickly. The aim is to save lives and improve patient experience as well as ensuring that resources are being used efficiently combined with the necessary investment in technology. One key change is around vehicle deployment, with ambulance trusts implementing a front-loaded model. This is where ambulance trusts may send a single responder rather than double-crewed ambulance to some calls, based on the needs of the patient. This will free up resources for other calls and help to optimise performance.

Fast response vehicles can often get to the scene faster than traditional ambulances. For heart attack patients where every minute counts, this can mean the difference between life and death.

### Ambulance Services: Shropshire

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from Mr. Anthony Marsh of Shropshire Ambulance Trust on the future of the Shrewsbury Ambulance Control Centre. [165843]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has not received any representations from Mr. Anthony Marsh, chief executive of the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust, on the future of the Shrewsbury Ambulance Control Centre.

### Autism: Children

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* children under 16, *(b)* young people aged 16 to 24 and *(c)* people over 24 with autism. [173545]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** According to the Office for National Statistics Publication, 'Mental Health of Children and Young People in Great Britain, 2004' the percentage of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder aged between five and 10 years old in 2004 in Great Britain was 1 per cent., and for 11 to 16-year-olds was 0.8 per cent. A copy of this is available in the Library.

Corresponding information for people over 16 years old is not available.

### Breast and Ovarian Cancer: Screening

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of regional variations in waiting periods for screening for *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* ovarian cancer. [171701]

**Ann Keen:** There is no screening programme for ovarian cancer. For variations in breast screening waiting periods I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1229W.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital trusts *(a)* met and *(b)* did not meet the screening targets for (i) breast cancer and (ii) ovarian cancer in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the factors impeding those trusts which did not meet the target. [171702]

**Ann Keen:** Information has been placed in the Library, which lists coverage rates for all local breast screening services in England. Coverage is the proportion of women resident and eligible with a recorded screening result at least once in the previous three years. The national aspirational standard for breast screening coverage is 75 per cent.

There are many factors that can affect coverage. These include population mobility in London and other large inner city areas, deprivation, affluence (private health care) and ethnicity. It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their primary care trusts, local breast screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate breast screening services for their local populations.

There is no national screening programme for ovarian cancer.

### Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust: Finance

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the financial position of Brent teaching primary care trust. [169301]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** At the end of quarter two of 2007-08, Brent teaching primary care trust is forecasting a financial year-end deficit of £4 million.

### Broadmoor Hospital: Death

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths in custody have occurred at Broadmoor hospital in each year since 1997. [170344]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not held centrally. However, to improve consistency in reporting incidents by the high secure hospitals, a new national reporting policy which includes information on assaults was introduced in January 2007, and this information is reviewed regularly by a dedicated performance manager for each hospital.

### Cancer: Finance

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will use the £370 million planned expenditure under the NHS Cancer Reform Strategy to provide additional funding to those primary care trusts where incidences of cancer are highest. [171908]

**Ann Keen:** The revenue component of the £370 million will be included in primary care trust allocations. The allocation formula takes account of the variation in need for hospital services across the country.

The capital funding for improvements to cancer services is included within the total capital funding available to the national health service. The detail of how this investment will be delivered will be agreed as part of the NHS capital planning process.

### Care Homes: Dementia

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of *(a)* training available and *(b)* skills required of care home staff dealing with people with dementia; [172308]

(2) if he will make it mandatory for care home staff to receive training in dementia care. [172309]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The National Dementia Strategy will focus on three key themes: improving awareness and understanding, early diagnosis and intervention and improving the quality of care.

The third theme, improving the quality of care, will ensure that people with dementia receive good quality care from diagnosis to end of life, whether that care is provided in the community, in general hospitals or in care homes. Under this theme, training issues will be addressed and the Department will work with the royal colleges and professional bodies to ensure there is appropriate training on dementia in undergraduate and postgraduate training in both health and social care courses.

National occupational standards set out the skills, knowledge and values required by social care workers and are used to benchmark national vocational qualifications. Joint health and social care national occupational standards contain specific standards on providing individualised care, appropriate communication, activities, medication management, supporting family and other carers and gaining specialist support from other services, this includes people with dementia. The standards are set out on the Skills for Care and Skills for Health websites.

www.skillsforcare.org.uk

www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

It is the responsibility of social care service providers to ensure that their care home staff have the relevant National Vocation Qualifications (NVQs) and are adequately trained to carry out the duties they are employed to do. The knowledge set for NVQs is job specific and care home workers who are working with dementia on a regular basis should be taught the dementia knowledge set as part of their dementia training.

### Care Homes: Inspections

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to introduce routine inspections of care homes by pharmacists, with particular reference to levels of sedation of elderly patients; and if he will make a statement. [173200]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: It is the policy of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) to take a proportionate approach to inspection. CSCI's professional guidance for inspectors, 'Referring medication issues to a CSCI pharmacist inspector', sets out a targeted referral pathway whereby CSCI's generic inspectors will consult with regionally-based lead pharmacist inspectors wherever there is a concern about inappropriate handling of medication.

In those cases where there would appear to be misuse of medication for sedation, an inspector would consult with the regional pharmacist inspection teams. Where there are serious concerns, a targeted inspection of a service could then be carried out by a pharmacist inspector. Pharmacist inspectors are also made available to generic inspectors to give advice and guidance on medication issues and are copied into regulation 37 (of the Care Homes Regulations 2001) cases, which relate to serious medication issues.

CSCI is aware of the dangers around misuse of medication and pharmacist inspectors routinely inspect controlled drugs in all of the services they visit. Pharmacist inspectors refer relevant information about controlled drugs to accountable officers in primary care trusts, who are part of the local intelligence networks set up following the Government's response to the Shipman inquiry. CSCI is also piloting a project in its south-west region for random inspections of services that stated on their annual quality assurance assessments that they have looked after schedule 2 controlled drugs in the past 12 months.

### Carers

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 665W, what information regarding *(a)* providers and *(b)* receivers of unpaid care is collected (i) centrally and (ii) by local authorities. [173554]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Data on carers are collected centrally through the census. In 2001 the census showed that in England and Wales, there were 5.2 million carers, one in 10 of the population. Data on the number of people being cared for are not held centrally.

It is for local authorities to collect data on the number of carers and those needing care in order to inform service provision. It is the responsibility of local health and social care organisations to prioritise and allocate funding for support and services for carers based and disabled people on their assessment of the needs of their local populations.

### Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients: Death

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people detained under the Mental Health Act have died in NHS mental health accommodation from *(a)* natural and *(b)* non-natural causes in each of the last five years. [173876]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Mental Health Act Commission asks trusts to supply information on those cases where someone dies who is detained under the Mental Health

Act. Their information on the total number of in-patient deaths, broken down into natural and unnatural, in national health service mental health accommodation in England from 2002 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

| | *Unnatural* | *Natural* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002[1] | 72 | 291 | 363 |
| 2003[1] | 74 | 222 | 296 |
| 2004 | 69 | 226 | 296 |
| 2005 | [illegible] | 245 | 321 |
| 2006 | 81 | 295 | 374 |

[1] Includes Wales.

*Source:*

The Mental Health Act Commission

## Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171299]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Chapter 7 of the "Ministerial Code" sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

## Dental Health

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the information provided by the adult dental health survey in assessing dental health. [174212]

**Ann Keen:** The adult dental health survey provides a picture of the nation's dental health. Successive surveys provide important information on changes in the oral health of the adult population over time. A number of areas also carry out more detailed local oral health assessments to inform their service provision. All primary care trusts are encouraged under the new dental system to include a local oral health needs assessment as part of their overall commissioning plans.

## Dental Services

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the new general dental services contract upon *(a)* access to care, *(b)* quality of care, *(c)* the level of oral health and *(d)* the quality of the patient experience. [173780]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The Department has assessed the impact of the first year of the dental reforms in the report "NHS Dental Reforms: One year on". This report, published on 7 August 2007, is available in the Library. It is also available online at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_077238

The report set out how the first year of the dental reforms helped lay much more secure foundations for dental services. The report also set out how primary care trusts are already using their new responsibilities for commissioning dental services to improve access, quality, patient experience, oral health outcomes and value for money and how the Department is working with the national health service and other stakeholders to support further progress in all these areas.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the abolition of patient registration on *(a)* access to NHS dental services and *(b)* continuity of dental care. [174211]

**Ann Keen:** The measure used by the Department to monitor access to national health service dental services is the number of people who receive care or treatment from NHS primary dental care services at least once in a two year period. Information for the latest 24 month period for which figures are available, 1 July 2005—30 June 2007, show access within 99 per cent. of the level seen in the last 24 month period before the reforms, the period ending 31 March 2006. Given 3.6 per cent. of existing activity had to be re-commissioned at the start of the new system, with a resulting temporary loss of access for some 900,000 patients these figures suggest the abolition of registration has, as expected, had no adverse effect on access to services.

The latest information for the 24 months ending 30 June 2007 can be found in table Cl, Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 1:30 June 2007" report.

A copy is available in the Library, and can also be found at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-ql-2007-08

We have had no reports of an adverse effect of the abolition of registration as part of the national remuneration system and we have no reason to expect this. Registration as a central requirement was only introduced in 1990. Before then dentists held their own patient lists and there is no reason not to expect them to continue to do so.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department defines access to NHS dental services. [174214]

**Ann Keen:** The measure used by the Department to monitor access to national health service dental services is the number of people who receive care or treatment from NHS primary dental care services at least once in a two year period. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommends that adults attend the dentist at least once every two years. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in England to assess local needs for NHS dental services and to commission or provide services in ways that meet these needs.

The number of patients seen in the most recent 24 month period is published regularly by the Information Centre for health and social care. The latest information for the 24 months ending 30 June 2007 can be found in table Cl, Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 1: 30 June 2007" report.

A copy is available in the Library, and can also be found at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-q1-2007-08

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what indicators his Department recommends primary care trusts use, in addition to units of dental activity, to assess *(a)* levels of (i) access, (ii) oral health and (iii) quality of service and *(b)* the patient experience provided. [174215]

**Ann Keen:** The Department expects primary care trusts (PCTs) to assess level of access to local dental services on the number of patients receiving care or treatment from a national health service dentist in the previous 24 month period as set out in the NHS Operating Framework. PCTs have responsibility for commissioning dental services to meet local need. This includes ensuring services are of robust quality and address local oral health needs. Guidance has been issued to PCTs setting out the additional range of indicators they may wish to include when looking at provision of local dental services.

## Dental Services: Children

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many five-year-olds were given a general anaesthetic for dental treatment in England in each of the last five years. [173778]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* This information is not held centrally. Dental treatment under general anaesthesia may only take place in a hospital setting that has a critical-care facility. Hospital Episode Statistics show the dental procedure carried out but not whether a general anaesthetic was administered.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* 12 and *(b)* five years had decayed, missing and filled teeth in England in each of the last five years. [173779]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* National health service dental health surveys of five-year-old and 12-year-old children are normally conducted every other year and the information available centrally is provided in the following table.

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| | *Decayed, missing and filled teeth (dmft)* |
| *Five years* | |
| 2005-06 | 38 |
| 2003-04 | 38.7 |
| 2001-02 | 38.8 |
| 1999-2000 | 38.3 |
| *12 years* | |
| 2004-05 | 30.4 |
| 2000-01 | 37 |
| 1996-97 | 40.76 |

*Source:*
The figures are taken from the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry Survey Reports.

## Departmental Board

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W on the Departmental Board, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report referred to in paragraph 6.1 of the minutes of the meeting held in January 2007. [172440]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The report "Explaining NHS Deficits, 2003/04-2005/06" was published on 20 February and is available in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W on the Departmental Board, if he will place in the Library all papers, including the agenda and minutes, for the meeting referred to in paragraph 1.4 of the minutes of the meeting of his Departmental Board in January 2007. [172441]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No papers were prepared for this meeting, which was an oral briefing event for staff in the Department.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W on the Departmental Board, what the outcomes of the leak inquiries referred to in paragraph 1.3 of the minutes of the meeting held in January 2007 were. [172442]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It has been the practice of successive governments not to comment on the subject or outcome of leak inquiries as there is a continued necessity to safeguard security and investigative arrangements.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W on the Departmental Board, what issues were put to Ministers as areas where his Department might increase its focus, following the discussion referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the minutes of the meeting held in June 2007. [172444]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This work was subsumed into wider briefing covering the full range of issues facing the new ministerial team at the end of June 2007.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W on the Departmental Board, what the outcome of the work programme to assess the fitness for purpose of his Department's capital regime was; and what reports or other papers were produced as part of this work programme. [172446]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This work is being taken forward as part of the national health service next stage review.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W, on the Departmental Board, what communications were issued to NHS staff in response to the decision noted in paragraph 2.2 of the meeting held in February. [172447]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This message was incorporated into a range of regular communications and speeches, including the national health service chief executive's regular bulletins.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168590]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not differentiate between lost or stolen equipment therefore the figures quoted include both categories.

The number of computers lost or stolen between 1 January 2007 and 23 November 2007 is none.

The number of laptops lost or stolen between 1 January 2007 and 23 November 2007 is 15. The value of the lost or stolen laptops is estimated to be £15,175.44 with individual laptops ranging in value from £1,003.09 to £1,088.84.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will break down the £141 million his Department spent on consultants in 2006-07, by consultancy company. [167835]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many management and other consultants are employed by his Department. [170616]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As at the end of September 2007, there were 165 consultants funded within the Department's administrative budget.

Outside the Department's administrative budget, programme or Vote 1 funding was used to pay for consultants and contractors. As at end of September 2007 we had some 427 consultants and contractors on such funding working on implementation of front line service delivery.

| *Title* | *Budget* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| Consultants / contractors | Administrative | 165 |
| Consultants / contractors | Programme | 427 |
| Total | — | 592 |

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170252]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS. [170858]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of press officers employed by the Department at the end of the financial year 2006-07 was 34.

The Department does not hold information on the number of press officers employed by the 361 individual organisations that together make up the national health service.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169036]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** For the 12 months to 30 September 2007, turnover in the Department was 12 per cent. For the 12 months to 30 September 2006, the corresponding figure was 16 per cent. These figures cover all turnover categories, and in particular civil servants whose temporary contracts finished, those whose work transferred to other organisations and those who left under voluntary retirement and severance schemes.

For the 12 months to 30 September 2007, turnover in Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency was 13 per cent. For the 12 months to 30 September 2006, the corresponding figure was 11 per cent. These figures also cover all turnover categories.

For the 12 months to 30 March 2007, turnover in NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency was 11 per cent. For the six months to 30 September 2007, the corresponding figure was 4 per cent. (suggesting an annual equivalent of 8 per cent.). These figures also cover all turnover categories.

### Departmental Manpower

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of posts in his Department were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172254]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department is committed to achieving workforce reductions of 720 by the end of 2007-08. This target is net of any transfers of staff to national health service agencies or other arms length bodies. These transfers do not constitute 'front line' posts under Gershon. The Department has not re-categorised any of its posts in this way in any year since 2004.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164926]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are two civil servants supporting the special advisers in the Secretary of State's office. Both provide administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

The office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 departmental annual report and accounts.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172318]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There is no express provision in the Department's standard contract prohibiting the assignment of debt. However, there is a provision which says that the contractor shall not assign, sub-contract or in any other way dispose of the contract or any part of it without the contracting authority's prior approval. On the basis that a prohibition on 'assignment of debt' is a prohibition on a supplier from assigning money owed to it under a contract, the Department takes this provision to mean that a contractor may not assign its debts, without approval from the contracting authority.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172513]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** On 12 June 2006, the Prime Minister and the former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband) announced revised sustainable operations targets for the Government Estate. They focus on key areas such as carbon neutrality and emissions, energy efficiency, waste and water consumption.

The 2006 Estate targets include:

Recycling:

Departments to increase their recycling figures to 40 per cent. of their waste arisings by 2010 and to 75 per cent. of their waste by 2020.

These targets will apply for the reporting period April 2006 to March 2007 onwards.

Previous Government targets that applied to the Government Estate were launched in March 2004 but have since been superseded by the new targets.

The Department has consistently exceeded the targets. Our performance over the past five years is as follows:

| | *Waste arisings (tonnes)* | *Proportion recycled (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 908.69 | 78 |
| 2003-04 | 918.95 | 65 |
| 2004-05 | 1152.76 | 68 |
| 2005-06 | 635.48 | 85 |

All figures exclude information technology (some is refurbished and resold; the rest is dismantled and disposed of in accordance with legislation).

Figures are not directly comparable from one year to another. Staff have moved from buildings where waste collected by departmental contractors to buildings managed by other Government Departments (who include our staff in their returns). In addition, in some buildings waste streams have been added to what was previously collected under the Department's contract.

Figures include the Department's main London estate, and departmental agencies.

The 2006 report is available at:

www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006/

and the sixth annual report is due to be published early in the new year.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of his Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established; [166538]

(2) what information his Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which his Department is responsible; [166539]

(3) how much each telephone contact centre for which his Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment. [166540]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department itself has a single public facing telephone enquiry service taking approximately 140,000 telephone calls a year. Statistical information and quality checks are in place to ensure its effectiveness. The contact centre is part of the wider Customer Service Centre which has employed 80 people since it was established in 2004. It is funded through the Department's running costs.

The Department funds a wide range of voluntary and charitable organisations to provide services relating to health and healthy living. Some of these organisations include telephone helplines as part of their services. We also fund under contract organisations such as NHS Direct and the Healthy Start Helpline.

### Dermatology Services

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, to Question 170029, on practice-based commissioning for dermatology services, how he expects practice-based commissioning to affect the delivery of dermatology services. [174182]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Practice-based commissioning will improve the design and delivery of dermatology services. In particular, practice-based commissioners in partnership with primary care trusts (PCTs) draw up the detailed specification for services such as dermatology in order that these are tailored to best meet local needs. Practice-based commissioning can facilitate, where clinically appropriate, the provision of services such as dermatology in settings that are closer to home or more convenient for patients.

For example in Huntingdonshire, practice-based commissioners have worked in partnership with the PCT to establish both general practitioner and consultant led clinics delivered in community settings for dermatology, anti-coagulation testing, ear nose and throat, community echocardiography testing and gynaecology services.

### Doctors: Career Structure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what he expects the competition ratio for training posts for registrar group doctors in each *(a)* region and *(b)* specialty to be in 2008. [171929]

**Ann Keen:** We are working with the Deaneries on the final details of the numbers of training posts for 2008 and expect to have this information later this month.

### Drugs: Consultants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* he expects to be spent in consultancy fees in relation to the review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [170575]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The costs incurred to date to carry out both phases of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff review, Phase 1 dressings and reagents and Phase 2 arrangements for the provision for stoma and incontinence appliances and related services is £1.9 million.

Depending on the outcome to this consultation the forecast total fees in relation to the Part IX review of the Drug Tariff is likely to be in the region of £2.47 million.

### Fibromyalgia

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with fibromyalgia in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [172968]

**Ann Keen:** Information on the number of people diagnosed with fibromyalgia is not collected.

### Food: Labelling

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of food labelling schemes; and if he will make a statement. [174450]

**Dawn Primarolo:** When the Agency made its recommendations for colour coded front of pack signpost labelling in March 2006 it made a commitment to independently review the impact that front of pack nutrition labelling schemes in use in the United Kingdom market had on consumer behaviour and understanding in the shopping environment.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of a product must be made in the UK for it to carry a Made in Britain label; and if he will make a statement. [174451]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The origin of a food is deemed to be where the food was produced or processed, rather than the origin of the individual ingredients. Therefore, a processed food labelled as 'Made in Britain' could be either produced or processed in the United Kingdom.

### Gambling: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision the NHS makes for treatment of problem gamblers. [175196]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Problem gamblers can access services in primary care and secondary care including specialised mental health and addiction services. There are currently no central plans to provide dedicated services. However, we will continue to monitor the situation and work with local healthcare communities who are responsible for assessing and commissioning services to meet the needs of the populations that they serve.

### Health Education: Pharmacy

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of self care information being provided to the public through pharmacies. [174013]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Support for self care is an essential service within the community pharmacy contractual framework which all pharmacies are required to provide. It is for primary care trusts to monitor the provision of services under the contractual framework. The Department has not assessed the level of self care information being provided to the public through pharmacies.

### Health Services

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to encourage local healthcare services to open practices outside the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. since 1997. [173425]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* We expect general practitioner (GP) practices and primary care trusts (PCTs) to work together locally to ensure patient preferences are taken into account when setting surgery opening hours. Our aim, as set out in 'Our NHS Our Future' is for 50 per cent. of existing GP practices, the 100 new GP practices in the 25 per cent. of PCTs with the poorest provision, and the 150 new GP led health centres, to be offering their patients extended opening.

### Health Services: Foreigners

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what safeguards are *(a)* in place and *(b)* planned to prevent visits to the UK for the primary purpose of using the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [170654]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have been asked to reply.

The immigration rules provide for overseas nationals to come to the UK for private medical treatment but not for the purpose of using the NHS. Overseas visitors who are not exempt from charge under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, are not entitled to free NHS treatment.

Only certain specified treatments which are free to all, including that received in an Accident and Emergency Department or for certain specified infectious diseases which are a threat to public health, can be provided free of charge. These rules do not cover primary healthcare at GP surgeries.

Entry clearance officers at British visa-issuing posts abroad and immigration officers at ports of entry to the UK have powers to refuse entry if they have reason to believe that a visa applicant or passenger applying for entry as a visitor has the intention of seeking NHS medical treatment, since this would not meet the requirements of the immigration rules for visitors. Overseas Visitor Managers in UK hospitals are also required to check a patient's eligibility for free treatment and apply charges if appropriate.

The Home Office enforcement strategy Enforcing the Rules: a strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws published on 7 March 2007 includes an undertaking to review the rules governing access to the NHS by foreign nationals. The review is currently under way and will report in the new year, followed by a public consultation.

### Health Services: Standards

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends the Care Quality Commission to have powers to impose administrative fines on those health care providers which do not meet the current Healthcare Commission's requirements for core standards *(a)* C15a and *(b)* C15b. [170057]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Care Quality Commission will be able to take a range of enforcement action against providers that fail to meet registration requirements, including the power to offer a penalty notice in lieu of prosecution. The Department will be consulting during 2008 on the registration requirements that service providers will be required to meet.

### Health: Children

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what Child Health Application systems primary care trusts are using in the *(a)* North, *(b)* Midlands, *(c)* East and *(d)* Southern local service provider area. [171814]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Primary care trusts (PCT) in the North, Midlands and East programme for information technology in the main use one or other of the following systems: The Phoenix Partnership SystmOne; Health Solutions Wales Community Child Health 2000 System, Comwise, and various McKesson-based systems. However, one PCT uses an in-house bespoke system. Those in the Southern programme for IT use either the McKesson Swift or CarePlus systems, or the Health Solutions Wales Community Child Health 2000 System.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to *(a)* central Government and *(b)* primary care trusts was of (i) the child health interim application system and (ii) RiO in the last 12 months. [171815]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** All deployments made by the London local service provider (LSP) under the national programme for information technology (NPfIT), including the child interim health application (CHIA) and RiO, are part of the overall £1.016 billion contract between the Department and the LSP, BT. Work done to deliver and support the CHIA and RiO systems in the last 12 months has not resulted in any additional cost to that contract.

Information about costs incurred locally by primary care trusts and other national health service organisations in implementing NPfIT systems and services delivered by LSPs is not collected centrally.

### Heart Diseases: Health Services

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what action the Government have taken to improve cardiac services in the NHS since 1997; [173702]

(2) what discussions the Government have had with the British Heart Foundation on the efficiency and effectiveness of NHS cardiac services. [173704]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The National Service Framework (NSF) for Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) published in March 2000 sets a 10-year framework for action to prevent disease, tackle inequalities, save more lives, and improve the quality of life for people with heart disease.

The implementation of this NSF has led to a reduction of premature mortality, improved diagnostic and treatment facilities, faster care and better prevention of heart disease.

This progress is set out in detail in the progress report for 2006, 'Shaping the future', copies of which are available in the Library. A progress report for 2007 will be published in early 2008.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) played a significant role in the development and implementation of the NSF for CHD. This was supported by the Department's CHD Taskforce, which included representation from the BHF. The Department has, and will continue to work closely with the BHF on a variety of projects and they are represented on the Department's CHD Programme Board.

### Hip Replacements

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged over 65 years with hip injuries were discharged from hospital to a nursing home in each year since 1997. [175058]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information on the number of people aged over 65 with hip injuries who were discharged from hospital to a nursing home is not collected centrally.

### Hospital Beds

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which acute hospitals trusts have had red alert status for bed capacity in the last four weeks; and if he will make a statement. [173772]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: The Department is aware that some national health service trusts and ambulance trusts operate local bed capacity management systems which incorporate coloured alerts. However, these are local arrangements and there is no national definition of particular colour alerts or national data collection measuring alert status.

### Hospitals

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish lists of hospitals recommended for top-ups above the national tariff provided to him by each strategic health authority in the last three months. [171772]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The list of providers eligible for specialist top-ups in 2008-09 will be published in December 2007 as part of the tariff package, and alongside the National Health Service Operating Framework for 2008-09.

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency re-admissions there were in each year since 1997; and how many were of people aged *(a)* 0 to 10, *(b)* 11 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 65, *(d)* 66 to 75 and *(e)* over 75 in each year. [166083]

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency readmissions faced delayed discharge for each quarter since 2002 for which figures are available; and how many emergency readmissions there were in each quarter since 2002, broken down by age. [169941]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Currently, the best estimates of re-admission rates are those released by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD). These estimates are derived from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data and are published in full on the NCHOD website at www.nchod.nhs.uk; a relevant extract is given in the table, which has been placed in the Library. There are eight years data from 1998-99 to 2005-06 at primary care trust (PCT) level and trust level, for the age groups 0-15, 16-74 and 75 and over. The data is presented both in raw form and also standardised for changes in age, sex, method of admission and case type and exclude discharges for those coded as death, day cases, maternity spells, mental health specialties and those with a mention of cancer or chemotherapy for cancer anywhere in the spell. Full definitions are on the NCHOD website.

Other analyses from this source, including quarterly data, could be produced only at disproportionate cost. We regret that data linking emergency readmissions to delayed discharge, are not available.

### Hospitals: Construction

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what hospital building projects were approved in each of the last three years; what the *(a)* projected costs when approved were, *(b)* costs to date are and *(c)* projected completion costs are of each project; and what the (i) expected completion dates were on approval and (ii) actual expected completion dates are. [171688]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on hospital building schemes approved (full business case (FBC) approved and financial close or tender awarded for both private finance initiative (PFI) and public capital schemes) in the last three years is in the following table.

For PFI schemes expected completion dates ('Operational' in the table) are collected centrally at the point of financial close but whether these are precisely achieved is not logged. Capital costs are recorded at the point of financial close but not on completion as the risk of any cost overruns lie with the private sector under a PFI contract. Information on cost increases and the reasons for them from approval of the first business case in the procurement process (the strategic outline case (SOC) or outline business case (OBC)) to FBC for each scheme in the table are submitted annually as part of the Department's evidence for the Health Select Committee's Public Expenditure Inquiry. I refer the hon. Member to the reports of the House of Commons Health Committee 'Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services, HC26-i'. Indicative timetables are set for all schemes as part of this first business case as part of approved project management practice but are revised as necessary to reflect changed circumstances and are not collected centrally.

For public capital hospital building schemes expected completion dates ('Operational' in the table) are collected centrally at the point of tender award after FBC approval; cost increases and time overruns from then until completion are submitted annually to the Health Select Committee and can also be found in 'Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services, HC26-i' (this shows all projects over £10 million—new hospital building schemes are now considered by the Department as projects over £25 million with a clear, frontline clinical purpose). The capital values provided in the table in this answer are taken at a point near to completion. Cost increases from approval of the first business case in the procurement process (the SOC or OBC) are not collected centrally nor requested by the Health Select Committee as part of the evidence. The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

| *National health service trust* | *Capital value (£ million)* | *Financial close/ tender award date* | *Operational/ expected operational date* |
|---|---|---|---|
| PFI hospital building projects approved in the last three years and operational | | | |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust | 24 | 21 July 2005 | 23 April 2007 |
| | | | |
| PFI hospital building projects approved in the last three years and under construction | | | |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | 28 | 3 March 2005 | Q1 2008 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (FT) | 299 | 27 April 2005 | Q1 2008 |
| Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS FT | 326 | 29 October 2005 | Q2 2009 |
| Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust | 236 | 12 December 2005 | Q2 2009 |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust | 129 | 13 December 2005 | Q2 2008 |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 67 | 21 February 2006 | Q2 2008 |
| Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | 36 | 27 March 2006 | Q1 2008 |
| Barts and the London NHS Trust | 1,000 | 27 April 2006 | Q2 2013 |
| St. Helens Hospitals NHS Trust | 338 | 1 June 2006 | Q4 2008 |
| University Hospital Birmingham/ Birmingham and Solihull MH NHS Trusts | 627 | 8 June 2006 | Q1 2010 |
| South West Essex Teaching PCT | 30 | 29 June 2006 | Q3 2008 |
| Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust | 21 | 28 February 2007 | Q1 2009 |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | 29 | 3 May 2007 | Q2 2009 |
| University Hospital of North Staffordshire/Stoke PCT | 375 | 13 June 2007 | Q4 2012 |
| Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 353 | 22 June 2007 | Q2 2010 |
| Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS FT | 336 | 29 June 2007 | Q1 2012 |
| North Middlesex University Hospital | 144 | 27 July 2007 | Q2 2010 |
| Salford Royal Hospitals NHS FT | 190 | 5 September 2007 | Q1 2011 |
| Tameside and Glossop Acute Services Trust | 109 | 13 September 2007 | Q4 2010 |
| South Essex Partnership NHS FT | 32 | 5 October 2007 | Q3 2009 |
| Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust | 36 | 9 October 2007 | Q2 2009 |
| Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust | 36 | 31 October 2007 | Q1 2010 |
| Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust | 169 | 3 November 2007 | Q1 2010 |
| Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust | 75 | 5 December 2007 | Q1 2010 |
| Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | 148 | 6 December 2007 | Q3 2010 |
| | | | |
| Public capital hospital building projects approved in the last three years and operational | | | |
| West London Mental Health NHS Trust | 27 | 1 June 2005 | 30 June 2007 |
| | | | |
| Public capital hospital building projects approved in the last three years and under construction | | | |
| South London and Maudsley NHS FT | 25 | 12 September 2005 | Q2 2008 |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 51 | 1 August 2006 | Q3 2008 |
| Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust | 75 | 9 October 2006 | Q3 2011 |
| United Bristol/North Bristol NHS Trusts | 64 | 16 October 2006 | Q1 2009 |
| University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust | 55 | 1 December 2006 | Q1 2009 |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust | 29 | 1 May 2007 | Q1 2009 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 40 | 14 October 2007 | Q2 2009 |

## Medical Equipment: Incontinence

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account was taken of tax revenues paid by appliance manufacturers in estimating the effect of price reductions for incontinence and stoma appliances proposed by his Department. [170552]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department is not privy to company tax information. No account has been taken of manufacturers' tax revenues, and it is unclear as to where they may be domiciled for tax purposes.

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the possible effect on UK manufacturing jobs of the price reductions for incontinence and stoma appliances proposed by his Department. [171200]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** One of the stated aims of consultation on the "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services to primary care" is to work in partnership to deliver fair prices for the national health service and reasonable returns for suppliers and contractors.

Departmental officials have had constructive dialogue with trade associations, individual companies, and patient and user groups in relation to what is proposed and is carefully listening to what they have to say.

To date no specific representations have been made to my officials with detailed consequences on United Kingdom manufacturing activities including jobs.

### Medical Professions: Surveys

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department conducts *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* other qualitative or quantitative opinion research of (i) doctors and (ii) nurses. [173366]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department is committed to consulting and involving the public, national health service staff and our stakeholders to help inform both policy formulation and the delivery of better quality public services. Responsive public services are an important part of the Modernising Government initiative.

The Department regularly commissions research among NHS staff.

### Medical Records: Databases

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce legislation to provide that he shall not be a data controller in relation to personal data processed on a detailed care record. [169024]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government have no current plans to do so in relation to patient records within the National Health Service Care Records Service, but will keep the position under review as the new service is implemented. Some key data controller responsibilities such as overall network and technical system security are managed through the Department's contracts and it would not be appropriate for the Secretary of State to avoid these responsibilities. This does not, however, permit the Department's staff to access confidential patient information unless expressly authorised by the patient concerned.

### Medical Services: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to extend the scope of practice-based commissioning to include real budgets for *(a)* elective acute care, *(b)* unscheduled care and *(c)* other types of care; and what plans he has to phase out the use of indicative budgets in relation to practice-based commissioning. [166390]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are no plans to introduce real budgets for practice-based commissioning or phase out the existing indicative budget arrangements. The Department considers that such an approach would not offer additional flexibility or benefits for practice-based commissioners.

### Mental Health Services

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1037W, on mental health services, what estimate he has made of the average cost to the NHS of a course of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT); what representations he has received on the availability and future use of CBT in the last 12 months; and what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* his Departmental officials have had with those who have made such representations. [174041]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** While National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have calculated that the average cost of delivering a course of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is £750, the cost calculation for delivering CBT and other evidence-based psychological therapies, used in implementing the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme, is lower. This is because the IAPT model of care includes a range of evidence-based therapeutic approaches and delivery methods.

Over the last year a significant number of representations have been made about the availability and future use of CBT, and discussions have taken place with a wide range of interests which include third sector organisations, senior academics, providers of CBT training courses and other forms of therapy and the private sector, in particular manufacturers of computerised CBT products.

### Milton Keynes Hospital: Midwives

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives should be employed at Milton Keynes hospital to deal with the number of births there each year. [174579]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This is a matter for the Chair of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, as it is the Foundation Trust's responsibility to ensure that staffing levels are sufficient to ensure that patient safety is not compromised.

### NHS Foundation Trusts: Infectious Diseases

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals with above average levels of infection of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* *clostridium difficile* have (i) gained and (ii) retained foundation status. [171913]

**Ann Keen:** We only support applications for national health service foundation trust status if we are satisfied that the NHS trust is a high performing organisation both in terms of service quality and financial rigour. Once NHS trusts become NHS foundation trusts they must continue to deliver high quality services and should they fall short of national standards then they will be subject to intervention by Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts. Monitor has a range of interventions available, from increased reporting through to direct managerial change.

All acute NHS trusts are obliged to report all methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections and *clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) diagnosed in their laboratory.

In 2006-07, 69 trusts had MRSA rates above the national rate of 1.67 cases per 10,000 bed-days, and of these 15 were NHS foundation trusts.

However, it is misleading to compare trusts on their reported CDI surveillance data. This is because the calculation used attributes all cases of CDI to the trust whose laboratory detects and reports the infection. This is inappropriate for those trusts that test samples from other hospitals, general practitioner practices etc. because the rate produced is higher than the actual infection rate in trust patients.

### NHS Trusts: Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which trusts are in the financially challenged trust regime; and if he will publish the reports relating to them. [172903]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following list shows the 17 financially challenged national health service trusts. These trusts have been subject to a rigorous review of their financial and operational positions, to identify long-term solutions that best deliver value for money, while maintaining standards of patient care to the community they serve. The results of the review process for these trusts are currently under discussion with the strategic health authorities and solutions are being prepared in the context of the Department's operating framework for 2008-09.

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS Trust
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
North Bristol NHS Trust
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust
Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
Weston Area Health NHS Trust
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust

### NHS: Billing

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts *(a)* paid and *(b)* did not pay 95 per cent. of undisputed invoices within (i) contract terms or (ii) 30 days in cases where no terms were agreed, in (A) 2005-06 and (B) 2006-07; and what the total value was of those invoices in each case. [164602]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information has been placed in the Library.

### NHS: Bureaucracy

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of hours per week spent on paperwork by *(a)* nurses, *(b)* midwives, *(c)* consultants and *(d)* general practitioners in the latest period for which figures are available. [167876]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No estimates have been made centrally.

Some paperwork is essential to safe and effective patient care. The Department is committed to reducing the unnecessary burden placed on staff in the national health service wherever it can and to ensure frontline staff are able to spend more time doing what they do best treat patients.

### NHS: Complaints

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to improve the NHS complaints procedure since 1997. [172938]

**Ann Keen:** The national health service complaints procedure is continually being reviewed in the light of changes to the way the NHS works and how patients receive their treatment. In addition, there are other external drivers for change, such as the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say", setting the strategic direction for a new NHS through world class commissioning and a new regulatory regime.

A number of changes have been introduced since 1997 aimed at improving complaints procedures and overall responsiveness to complaints. While the detail to processes have been changed the objectives have consistently aimed to deliver a system which:

is easy and accessible;

requires providers to extract lessons on quality for complaints to improve services for patients;

is fair to staff and complainants alike;

deals with complaints as swiftly, openly and efficiently as possible; and

is robust, honest and thorough, with the prime aim of resolving the problems and satisfying the concerns of the complainant.

Information has been placed in the Library which sets out in detail the specific changes that have been introduced to NHS complaints arrangements from 1997, and the key elements of the current proposals in the consultation "Making Experiences Count", which ran from June to October this year.

### NHS: Data Protection

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in the NHS have been subject to disciplinary proceedings for mishandling patient data in each of the past five years. [170179]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information relating to the information governance responsibilities of individual national health service trusts, primary care trusts and general practitioner practices is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For the future, tools are provided by NHS Connecting for Health to enable NHS organisations to control access to patient data held in the new systems and services deployed under the national programme for information technology. System audit trails will enable organisations to monitor access, and the Department has made it clear that misuse must not be tolerated. The Department will monitor how well NHS organisations adhere to standards rather than the details of access.

## NHS: DHL

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means the DHL contract for supply and delivery of medical supplies and equipment to the NHS is being evaluated; and if he will make a statement. [172919]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** DHL is contracted to run the business operation now known as NHS Supply Chain and has committed to key performance indicators (KPIs), including service delivery and financial targets.

While the contractual high level KPIs are used for performance and penalty reporting, lower level KPIs are used predicatively and diagnostically to forecast and understand performance.

KPI information is produced for the lifetime of the contract in the form of standard reports, which are monitored and evaluated by the supply chain management division (SCMD) of the NHS Business Services Authority which has been set up to manage DHL performance.

Along with KPI measurement, rigorous process evaluation and Gateway reviews, the SCMD are audited to ensure processes and procedures for managing the contract are robust.

## NHS: Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what net NHS expenditure was on *(a)* the unintended consequences of treatment, *(b)* health care arising from violent incidents, *(c)* coronary heart disease, *(d)* diabetes and *(e)* cerebrovascular disease (i) for England and (ii) in each primary care trust area, expressed (A) as a total, (B) as a percentage of total net NHS expenditure and (C) per head of population in the same format as that provided in table 8b of his Department's memorandum to the Health Select Committee on Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services 2006, HC(2006-07)-26-i [174881]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information has been placed in the Library.

## NHS: Finance

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rating is used when assessing *(a)* the creditworthiness of organisations receiving (i) public dividend capital and (ii) loans and *(b)* the risk of default by organisations on the repayment of (i) public dividend capital and (ii) loans; and pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1320W, to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley), on NHS finance, what rating is applied to each (A) organisation, (B) public dividend capital sum and (C) loan. [174389]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Loans are issued to national health service trusts where there is a reasonable expectation that they will be serviced and repaid on the agreed schedule. This is in line with rules on public sector loans set out by HM Treasury. This was assessed through an assurance process carried out on a case-by-case basis by strategic health authorities and the Department.

Public Dividend Capital is a different form of financing provided to NHS trusts. Unlike loans, it is not serviced at a constant rate. However, NHS trusts in receipt of public dividend capital are expected to deliver the required rate of return.

## NHS: Manpower

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 381W, on NHS: manpower, what estimate his Department has made of the number of staff that will be employed in the NHS in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* position. [167742]

**Ann Keen:** Workforce planning is a matter for local determination, as local workforce planners are best placed to asses the healthcare needs of their local population. The Department continues to ensure the frameworks and financial support are in place to support this.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 382W, on NHS: manpower, what documents his Department requires strategic health authorities to submit on their workforce plans; how frequently these submissions are required; and for what future time period strategic health authorities are required to make such plans. [167796]

**Ann Keen:** Within the national health service, planning is from the bottom up to ensure local health economy's requirements are met, plans are then aggregated to ensure wider coherence.

The Financial Information Management System (FIMS) is used by the Department to collect and report on finance and workforce data submitted by the NHS. As part of the FIMS process, strategic health authorities (SHAs) are required to submit an annual plan to the Department for the current financial year setting out financial and workforce profiles. The requirement to collect workforce plans and data is ongoing.

SHAs were required to submit their annual workforce investment plans, based on local long-term workforce planning, to the Department by 30 June 2007 in accordance with the multi professional education and training service level agreement between the two parties. Submission of these plans will be reviewed annually.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to Table 100 in his Department's memorandum to the Health Select Committee on Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services 2006, to how many staff each figure in the table refers. [167834]

**Ann Keen:** This was a financial collection only so it does not contain information about numbers of staff which relate to the collected data on costs of redundancy.

Numbers of redundancies have been collected in a separate exercise by the Department. The latest published information shows that in Quarter 1 of 2007-08 there have been 766 compulsory redundancies in the trusts and strategic health authorities by 30 June 2007. In total 87 per cent. of those redundancies were of non-clinical staff.

### Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165270]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

### Palliative Care

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what matters were covered in the 2007-08 baseline review of end-of-life care services, as described in paragraph 7.51 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; how many primary care trusts conducted the review; whether his Department has the results of the review; and if he will make a statement. [175101]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The NHS Operating Framework 2007-08 highlighted the importance of primary care trusts (PCTs), working with local authorities (LAs), undertaking baseline reviews of their end-of-life care services in preparation for the publication of the End-of-Life Care Strategy. Guidance on what these reviews should cover was issued in April 2007. The guidance is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_[illegible]108

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

The Department is not formally collecting or reviewing the baseline reviews. The baseline reviews will enable PCTs and LAs to assess current services, identify gaps or duplication and put in place arrangements to deliver comprehensive end of life care services that will provide choice, quality, equity and value for money.

### Paramedical Staff: Qualifications

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on mutual recognition for military and civilian paramedic qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [170547]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Responsibility for recognising civilian qualifications lies with the Health Professions Council.

### Patients: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways his Department will *(a)* support and *(b)* widely promote the Council of Europe Alliance (UK)'s 10 key characteristics of good nutritional care in hospitals, as stated on page 26 of his Department's document, Improving Nutritional Care. [170061]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board, chaired by Gordon Lishman, director general of Age Concern, will consider the most effective means of support and promotion of the Council of Europe Alliance (UK)'s 10 key characteristics.

### Peterborough District Hospital: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1323W, on Peterborough district hospital: cleaning services, whether additional funds will be made available to *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* acute trusts, to facilitate deep cleans of hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [174386]

**Ann Keen:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, on 21 November 2007. In addition, copies of letters of 1 and 29 November 2007 from the Department to strategic health authorities giving further details on plans for deep cleaning are available in the Library.

### Pregnancy

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department collects on pregnancies in England. [171935]

**Ann Keen:** The Information Centre for health and social care (part of the Government Statistical Service) publishes an annual statistical bulletin on 'NHS Maternity Statistics, England' using data from the maternity Hospital Episode Statistics. The latest edition 2005-06, published earlier this year, provides data on a range of topics, including place of delivery, duration of antenatal and postnatal stay, birth weight and conditions affecting newborn babies. Copies of the bulletins are available in the Library.

The National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at Oxford University and the Health Care Commission have also undertaken surveys into maternity services with a special focus on patient satisfaction.

### Pregnancy: Health Services

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of treating an entopic pregnancy in the latest year for which figures are available. [174015]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* Costs of entopic pregnancies are not collected centrally.

### Pregnant Women: Grants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the economic implications of the Health in Pregnancy Grant; if he will publish research *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the grant; what the approval process with HM Treasury was in relation to the grant; and if he will make a statement. [174521]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are introducing from April 2009 a one-off payment to expectant mothers, known as the Health in Pregnancy Grant, to help them during the important last weeks of pregnancy. The grant will help women meet the additional costs involved in pregnancy and in the run up to birth.

HM Treasury received a wide number of representations before the 2006 pre-Budget report on tax and benefits issues, which formed part of the process of policy development for the 2006 pre-Budget report. The decision to make a payment to all women during pregnancy was announced in the 2006 pre-Budget report.

### Prescriptions: Low Incomes

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people on low incomes are eligible for free prescriptions in *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland; and whether he plans to increase uptake. [171778]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested.

The areas named most closely correspond to the North Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). The estimated number of items dispensed in these PCTs for the 12 months October 2006 to September 2007 are shown by low income category in the following table.

| *PCT name* | *Income support* | *Job seeker* | *Disabled persons tax credit/ DWA* | *Working tax credit* | *Low income scheme (HC2)* | *Minimum income guarantee* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Tees | 294,067 | 65,920 | 221 | 99,516 | 25,587 | 5,879 |
| Middlesbrough | 322,649 | 57,430 | 159 | 86,[illegible]4 | 23,461 | 4,749 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 233,367 | 37,867 | 200 | 76,696 | 19,524 | 4,971 |

### Prosthetics

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what types of prosthetic limbs are available on the NHS. [172889]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The national health service has available to it, via national framework agreements virtually all types of prosthetic limbs that are available on the international market. Additionally, local healthcare professionals have the ability to obtain products from outside of the current agreement if it is deemed appropriate for the specific needs of a particular patient.

The selection of the most appropriate prosthetic limb product depends on a combination of factors that are best explored with their local prosthetist or multidisciplinary team.

### Tinnitus

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued to GPs on treating people with tinnitus; and if he will make a statement. [174700]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department has issued no recent guidance to general practitioners on treating people with tinnitus.

### Departmental Staff

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171273]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department records information on the ages of its employees on its human resources information system. Currently it does not employ any people aged between 16 and 18.

The Department analyses its age profile each month using a lowest category of 'under 20'. We therefore cannot provide information for the required age range.

Decisions about time off for training and funding for training are taken locally, and are not recorded by age, so we are unable to provide this information.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 18 December 2007*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Business Questions

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Leader of the House what subjects for topical debates have been proposed to her in each week of the current session; how many proposals she received for each subject; and what criteria she used to choose the subjects upon which topical debates have been held. [175275]

**Ms Harman:** I do not intend to publicise the proposed subjects or the number of requests for topical debates.

On 25 October 2007 the House agreed with the recommendations in the Government Response to the First Report of the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons on Revitalising the Chamber: the role of the back bench Member (CM7231). The recommendation set out stated:

> "The selection of debate—not least to ensure that the subject is genuinely "regional, national or international" which could not be guaranteed under a ballot system—would be announced by the Leader of the House following discussions in the usual channels and following the representations from opposition parties and backbenchers".

The criteria I have used have been announced to the House on several occasions including at business questions on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 974:

> "The subject should be topical; the House has not had an opportunity to debate it; it is a matter of public policy; it is a matter of public concern, and it is of international, national or regional importance".

### Communications Allowance

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has to bring forward proposals to increase the Communications Allowance; and what increase she intends to propose. [175173]

**Helen Goodman:** In accordance with the resolution of the House of 28 March, the Communications Allowance is increased on 1 April each year by the percentage increase in the retail price index as at 31 December the preceding year.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Leader of the House how many staff work in her Office's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174949]

**Ms Harman:** My private office effectively manages both parliamentary questions and correspondence from hon. Members and Peers.

Last session my office answered 100 per cent. of named day questions on the specified day and 99 per cent. of ordinary written questions within five working days.

To date, 94 per cent. of correspondence from MPs and Peers has been responded to within 15 working days.

No analysis has been undertaken on the amount of time spent dealing with both these issues. There are no plans to do so.

### Development of Policy

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Leader of the House what steps the Government has *(a)* taken and *(b)* facilitated to improve the means available to (i) hon. Members and (ii) this House to hold the Government to account and influence the development of policy. [174633]

**Ms Harman:** The Government have taken a number of steps to promote the ability of Members and of the House to hold the Government to account and to influence the development of policy, though these are not all recorded centrally (some for example will have been the responsibility of individual departments) and it is not possible to break them down in the way proposed.

Major reforms promoted or facilitated by the Government since 1997 have included:

increased the number of bills published in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny

publication of a draft legislative programme

publication of Explanatory Notes with bills, and other developments in supporting material published with bills

improved impact assessment and consultation processes

establishment of the UK National Parliament Office in Brussels

establishment of oral and written evidence-taking powers for public bill committees

introduction of Westminster Hall as a parallel debating chamber

increased resources for select committees

increased staffing and other resources for individual Members

regular appearances of the Prime Minister before the Liaison Committee

reduced notice for oral questions and the introduction of topical oral questions

introduction of a weekly topical debate

introduction of a system of written questions in September

greater certainty for Members in parliamentary business and the annual parliamentary calendar

updated Ministerial Code and new Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

I refer the hon. Member also to the statement by the Prime Minister of 3 July and the "Governance of Britain Green Paper (Cm 7170) published that day, which contains a range of further measures and proposals designed to promote the role and powers of the House.

### Inquiries: Ministerial Statements

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Leader of the House what departmental *(a)* reviews and *(b)* inquiries have been announced in Ministerial oral statements since 27 June; and if she will make a statement. [173575]

**Ms Harman:** Between 27 June and 13 December 2007 there were 48 oral statements made to the House. The content of these statements is available as a matter of public record.

### Members' Correspondence

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Leader of the House how many letters her office received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174928]

**Helen Goodman:** The information requested is not available in the form requested. Information is available for the calendar years 2005-07 as follows:

| | *Number of MPs' and Peers' letters received* | *Percentage of MPs' and Peers' correspondence answered within target* | *Percentage of Peers' correspondence answered within target* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 493 | 95 | 100 |
| 2005 | 302 | 97 | 100 |
| 2006 | 371 | 95 | 97 |
| 2007[1] | 426 | 97 | 100 |

[1] Up to 1 November

### Office Facilities

**John Mann:** To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members own the property in which the office facilities for which they claim office accommodation costs are situated; and how many hon. Members have such office facilities situated in property owned by the political party of which they are a member. [175214]

**Helen Goodman:** The Green Book (Parliamentary Salaries, Allowances and Pensions) does not allow Members to lease office accommodation from themselves. However, Members may use part of their home as an office for their Parliamentary duties, or any other building which they lease or own. They may claim for any additional costs incurred, but not leasing or mortgage costs. Figures are not readily available for the number of Members who do so.

Approximately 180 Members currently have office facilities situated in property owned by a political party.

### Parliamentary Scrutiny: EC Action

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Leader of the House what the terms of reference are for the Deputy Leader of the House's review of the system of scrutiny for European matters; when she expects recommendations arising from that review to be made; and what the timetable is for publication of those recommendations. [174513]

**Helen Goodman:** On behalf of the Leader of the House, I am considering issues relating to the operation and reform of the system for scrutiny of European Union documents in this House. This follows from the recommendations made in the report from the Modernisation Select Committee in its Second Report of Session 2004-05 (HC 465) and from the debate on 25 October relating to the composition of European Standing Committees. I hope to bring forward proposals before the current temporary resolution governing the composition of European Standing Committees, agreed following that debate, expires in February 2008.

### Parliamentary Scrutiny: Legislation

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Leader of the House in respect of what legislation she plans to provide for post-legislative scrutiny. [174634]

**Helen Goodman:** Departmental and other select committees in the Commons may already conduct post-legislative scrutiny exercises on any Acts falling within their area of activity, either as a separate inquiry or as part of other inquiries. Many committee inquiries contain elements of post-legislative scrutiny. In respect of certain Acts, specific provision for post-legislative scrutiny is included within the terms of the Act (for example the Pensions Act 2007). The Government expects to be responding shortly to the recommendations of the Law Commission, in its 2006 Report on "Post-Legislative Scrutiny" (Cm 6945), relating to a more systematic approach to post-legislative scrutiny.

### Street Trading: Regulation

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Leader of the House which local authorities have promoted private Bills to regulate the street trading activities of pedlars in each year since 1997; and what private bills including such regulation have been enacted since 1997. [174141]

**Helen Goodman:** The following is a list of private Acts which have been considered by Parliament since 1997. This includes two local authority Bills currently before Parliament and a further four new private Bills which have been deposited.

*Private Acts*

- City of Westminster Act 1999 c.i
- City of Newcastle upon Tyne Act 2000 c.viii
- Medway Council Act 2004 c.v
- London Local Authorities Act 2004 c.i
- Leicester City Council Act 2006 c.ii
- Liverpool City Council Act 2006 c.iii
- Maidstone Borough Council Act 2006 c.iv

*New Bills deposited on 27 November 2007*

- Canterbury City Council Bill
- Leeds City Council Bill
- Nottingham City Council Bill
- Reading Borough Council Bill

*Bills currently before Parliament*

- Bournemouth Borough Council Bill (First Reading 22.1.2007)
- Manchester City Council Bill (First Reading 22.1.2007)

*Note:*

Equivalent public legislation applies to Northern Ireland: Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) Act 2001 c.8

## WALES

### Departmental Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173818]

**Mr. Hain:** Nil.

The Wales Office has one diversity and equality co-ordinator and a diversity and equality champion on our management board. Being a small office this role is covered on a voluntary basis in addition to a full-time Wales Office post. Wales Office staff and managers are also able to access help and support on diversity matters from the Ministry of Justice.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Combat Stress

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Prime Minister whether he has visited the Combat Stress centres at *(a)* Tyrwhitt House, *(b)* Hollybush House and *(c)* Audley Court in the last six months. [173189]

**The Prime Minister:** A list of my public visits made within the UK will be published in the usual way after the end of the financial year.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Prime Minister how many letters his Office received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174941]

**The Prime Minister:** My Office received approximately 500,000 items of post during the 2006-07 parliamentary session, including a number of campaign cards and letters, and over 3,100 items of correspondence from MPs and peers.

For information for the parliamentary sessions 2004-05 and 2005-06 I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my predecessor (right hon. Tony Blair) on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1935-36W and 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 785-86W. Information for previous sessions is not available in the format requested.

### Departmental Email

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Prime Minister whether he personally uses an email account in the course of his duties. [174824]

**The Prime Minister:** Members of the public can email me via the No. 10 website:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page821.asp

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Prime Minister how many officials worked for him outside No. 10 Downing Street in *(a)* May 2007 and *(b)* December 2007, broken down by area; and if he will make a statement. [174259]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 48W.

### Ministerial Policy Advisors: Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost of severance pay for special advisers who left the Government between April and November 2007 or the nearest period for which figures are available. [173191]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2051W.

### Plastics: Packaging

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Prime Minister what supermarkets he has held meetings with to discuss throw-away plastic carrier bags. [173150]

**The Prime Minister:** My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects. In addition my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and his ministerial team regularly meet with representatives from supermarkets to discuss a wide range of issues, including those related to carrier bags and waste.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 592W, on trade unions, if he will make it his policy to place in the Library at regular intervals a list giving details of all meetings held with trade union leaders. [173065]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 592W.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, on Afghanistan, how many of his Department's personnel serve in the collocated headquarters. [175464]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** On security grounds, we do not reveal the location of DFID personnel in Afghanistan.

### ApTibet: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make representations to the EU on the *(a)* provision and *(b)* potential clawback of funding in relation to ApTibet; and if he will make a statement. [175217]

**Mr. Malik:** No representations have been made by DFID to the EU in relation to ApTibet.

### China: Bears

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1084W, on China: bears, if he will make it his policy to offer assistance to the Chinese government to end bear bile farming in China; and if he will make a statement. [175493]

**Mr. Malik:** We do not intend to make any representations to the Chinese government on this matter.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will meet representatives of Animals Asia to discuss bile extraction from bears in China. [175495]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID officials in China would be happy to meet with Animals Asia for a briefing.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external sources in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173691]

**Mr. Thomas:** Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

### HIV Infection: Children

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the development of infant diagnostics for HIV in resource-limited settings; and what projects he has to achieve this. [175204]

**Mr. Malik:** Infant diagnostics for HIV continue to be a challenge in resource-limited settings. The most common way to test for HIV is to identify antibodies to the virus, but antibody tests are not reliable in very young children. A new approach to HIV diagnosis in infants was therefore introduced in some African countries in late 2006. This involves testing 'dry blood spots' collected in a way that does not need specialist equipment at the point of care. This technology offers a vital opportunity for timely access to lifesaving treatment and care services for children who are infected with HIV. However, these services are just getting started in many countries and therefore relatively few infants have been able to receive such tests to date.

The UK announced support of €20 million for UNITAID in September 2006, as part of a 20 year commitment, increasing to €60 million per year by 2010 subject to performance. This month, UNITAID, together with UNICEF, launched a joint initiative that will include support to early paediatric diagnosis to improve early access to paediatric HIV treatment for HIV-infected infants.

### Kenya: Ebola Virus

**Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has offered to the government of Kenya to help deal with the recent Ebola outbreak in the Bundibugyo district. [175514]

**Mr. Thomas:** There are no confirmed Ebola cases in Kenya. However, Kenya is rightly on alert and preparation measures are being put into place. The management of outbreaks is led by the Epidemic Task Force at national level and the measures taken include communication to the public, limited screening of passengers from at-risk areas, preparation of case management guidelines, provision of personal protective gear to health workers and heightened surveillance.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is leading the support from development partners. DFID is contributing to WHO's technical assistance. The Center for Disease Control (US Government) is also providing support.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174932]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1084W.

### Policy and Research Unit

**Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in respect of the proposed Policy and Research Unit envisaged in his Department's strategic grant agreement with the UK Co-operative Movement. [175365]

**Mr. Malik:** Between 2003 and early 2007, a total of £460,000 was provided under a Strategic Grant Agreement between this Department and the UK Co-operative College. Since then, we have been in discussion with the college over a proposal to establish a programme of policy research that would analyse and highlight the value and effectiveness of co-operatives and other forms of social enterprise. DFID no longer runs a Strategic Grant scheme, so we are exploring various alternative channels for funding this proposed programme and hope to conclude an agreement in early 2008.

### Somalia: International Assistance

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1042W, on Somalia: international assistance, whether the Government will provide *(a)* financial and *(b)* logistical support for the French initiative to protect humanitarian supply ships sailing to Somalia from incidents of piracy. [169908]

**Mr. Thomas:** We commend the French initiative to provide protection to ships delivering aid to Somalia for the World Food Programme. The UK is not currently providing any financial or logistical support to France for this initiative. We will continue to monitor progress with the initiative and consider any future assistance as necessary. The UK continues to attach great importance to the need to ease the critical humanitarian situation in Somalia. We have contributed £8.6 million in additional funds since January this year to help those worst affected by the conflict and malnutrition.

### Uganda: Overseas Aid

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide an update on the financial sector deepening project in Uganda. [175257]

**Mr. Thomas:** We have provided £7 million over the past six years to deepen the capacity of Uganda's financial sector to meet the financial needs of poor rural and urban households. Our support has contributed towards Uganda being recognised internationally as a success story in microfinance. We are working closely with other donors and government to agree how our support should be continued. Our current phase of support finishes this January.

Our support has helped the implementation of a major survey to develop comprehensive national data on financial access in Uganda for the first time. Ugandans are now better informed when designing policies to support the sector. In addition our programme has supported a financial consumer education campaign to better inform microfinance consumers of their rights and responsibilities. The programme also helped a range of financial institutions improve services to better meet the needs of over 750,000 clients and establish over 4,000 self-managed village savings and loan associations. This has helped provide financial services to those who miss out on services from formal financial institutions.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will implement in other countries a financial sector deepening project such as that under way in Uganda. [175258]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development is engaged in a range of financial deepening projects in a number of countries. For example, we are implementing programmes in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania and in Bangladesh and Pakistan. We are committed to supporting the development of strong and inclusive financial sectors that contribute to growth and poverty reduction, and to working in partnership with other donors, partner governments and financial sector institutions.

In Uganda, we have provided £7 million over the past six years to deepen the capacity of the financial sector to meet the financial needs of poor rural and urban households. Our support has contributed towards Uganda being recognised internationally as a success story in microfinance.

### Zimbabwe: Asylum

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the number of Zimbabwean refugees in countries neighbouring Zimbabwe. [174898]

**Mr. Thomas:** It is estimated that between 1.1 million and 3 million Zimbabweans are living in countries neighbouring Zimbabwe. Reliable figures are hard to obtain as many Zimbabweans have crossed borders illegally. The UN and governments in host countries consider most of those who have left Zimbabwe to be economic migrants. As economic migrants they are not recognised as refugees nor protected under various international conventions governing the treatment of refugees. Over 160,000 Zimbabweans were deported from South Africa up to the end of October 2007, already a significant increase on the numbers deported in the whole of 2006.

DFID is supporting the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to provide humanitarian assistance to Zimbabweans deported from South Africa through the Beitbridge Reception Centre. IOM provides information on how to migrate legally and safely through its nationwide 'Safe Migration' campaign. We have recently approved a programme to support and protect Zimbabwean children in Limpopo Province in South Africa. The UK Government are also providing humanitarian assistance to Zimbabweans in Johannesburg through the British High Commission in Pretoria.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Political Levy

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what information the Speaker's Committee has on guidance or instruction given by the Commission to *(a)* board members and *(b)* staff who join the Public and Commercial Services Union on whether they should opt out of the political levy; and if he will make a statement. [174708]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has given no such guidance or instruction.

### Political Parties: Finance

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission seeks to gather information on the validity of the numbers of members affiliated by a trade union to the Labour Party by reference to the number of members in that union paying the political levy. [174707]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has produced for Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) on accepting and declaring donations and loans; on what date that guidance was published; and whether it was sent to each MSP. [175170]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that the most recent version of its guidance on donations and loans for regulated donees, including MSPs, was published on its website www.electoralcommission.org.uk, on 3 November 2006.

The Commission wrote to all political parties with MSPs on 21 November 2006 regarding the new loans provisions introduced by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the implications for regulated donees. The letter provided a link to the Commission's guidance on its website.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has produced guidance for regulated donees who are hon. Members on whether subsidising of their websites by trade unions must be declared as a donation or donation in kind. [175171]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me it publishes Donations and loans: guidance for Members of Parliament. This provides guidance on the treatment of cash and non cash donations, and is available in the Library or on the Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168101]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office has no central record of EU and non-EU foreign nationals in our employment. The Northern Ireland civil service is currently examining monitoring of nationality and will be discussing with the Equality Commission how to take this forward. Whatever procedures are agreed will also apply to the Northern Ireland Office.

### Prisons

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what additional personnel will be required to service the proposed new prison for adult males in Northern Ireland; and what estimate he has made of the number of construction jobs created in building the new facility. [174528]

**Paul Goggins:** Magilligan prison currently employs 441 staff. It is not possible at this stage to determine the final staffing levels for the proposed new prison.

It is anticipated that construction of the new prison will start in 2011-12 on a phased basis. While it is not possible to determine the number of construction jobs required to build the new facility, it will provide additional employment opportunities.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in the replacement of animals in scientific procedures; and how many animals she estimates would have been used in excess of the figure actually used, in the absence of Government action to promote such replacement in the most recent year for which figures are available. [165595]

**Meg Hillier:** The licensing system under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is demand-led and the Home Office has no control over the number of project licence applications received. Our objective is to minimise the number of animals used in particular programmes of work. We cannot influence the overall amount of animal research which takes place as this is determined by a number of factors, including the economic climate and global trends in scientific endeavour.

We are, however, fully committed to encouraging the development of alternatives to animal experimentation where this is possible and under the 1986 Act, the use of animals in scientific procedures will not be licensed if alternative non-animal techniques are available. The establishment of the National Centre for the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) by Government in May 2004 and continued contributions to its funding by the Home Office demonstrates our ongoing commitment in this area.

Assessing the overall impact of the adoption of non-animal methods is not easy, however some insights can be drawn from the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals published each year. For example, the use of such methods has reduced the number of mice used each year for monoclonal antibody production from several thousand to zero. Also, between 1996 and 2005 the introduction of the Limulus Assay for some classes of pyrogen testing reduced rabbit use for this purpose from 16,457 to 8,769.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places are available in residential drug treatment and rehabilitation centres in *(a)* the Wakefield area, *(b)* Hemsworth constituency and *(c)* England; and if she will make a statement. [168009]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

According to Bedvacs, the on-line database of residential rehabilitation services, there are no residential rehabilitation facilities physically located in the Wakefield area.

To make best use of available capacity across the country, clients are regularly placed into residential rehabilitation facilities outside the area of residence of the client. Residential rehabilitation services usually have national catchment areas and clients will access them from across the country. The area of the client's residence has the responsibility for providing funding for residential rehabilitation services based on individual need.

The Wakefield drug action team covers all localities within the area, including Hemsworth.

There were 2,222 beds available for drug dependent clients in England listed on Bedvacs, as of 7 December 2007.

## Genetics: Databases

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have records on the DNA database, broken down by police force area. [167014]

**Meg Hillier:** The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures given show the number of subject sample profiles retained on the National DNA Database at 25 October 2007 which were taken by forces in England and Wales, and the number of individuals that these profiles represent. They include over 26,000 subject sample profiles taken from volunteers.

It is currently estimated that 13.7 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. that a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). Thus the number of individuals on the database is approximately 13.7 per cent. fewer than the number of subject profiles. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database. Nonetheless, a long-term exercise is under way to identify issues associated with the removal of all such redundant replicate profiles.

Information on the NDNAD is recorded on the basis of the police force which took the DNA sample. The address of the person sampled is not recorded. Thus the figure for Suffolk (for example) includes people from outside Suffolk whose DNA was sampled by Suffolk police, and excludes people from Suffolk whose DNA was sampled by forces elsewhere.

| *Force* | *Total profiles on 25 October 2007* | *Total individuals on 25 October 2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 95,577 | 82,483 |
| Beds | 43,081 | 37,179 |
| British Transport | 42,566 | 36,734 |
| Cambridgeshire | 51,250 | 44,229 |
| Cheshire | 75,867 | 65,473 |
| City of London | 22,148 | 19,114 |
| Cleveland | 49,098 | 42,372 |
| Cumbria | 42,488 | 36,667 |
| Derbyshire | 83,398 | 71,972 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 104,028 | 89,776 |
| Dorset | 47,474 | 40,970 |
| Durham | 50,108 | 43,243 |
| Dyfed Powys | 47,536 | 41,024 |
| Essex | 117,624 | 101,510 |
| Gloucestershire | 42,091 | 36,325 |
| Greater Manchester | 234,555 | 202,421 |
| Gwent | 49,478 | 42,700 |
| Hampshire | 135,465 | 116,906 |
| Hertfordshire | 70,003 | 60,413 |
| Humberside | 79,353 | 68,482 |
| Kent | 134,403 | 115,990 |
| Lancashire | 134,159 | 115,779 |
| Leicestershire | 63,973 | 55,209 |
| Lincolnshire | 45,030 | 38,861 |
| Merseyside | 122,222 | 105,478 |
| Metropolitan | 773,361 | 667,411 |
| Norfolk | 62,707 | 54,116 |
| North Wales | 55,694 | 48,064 |
| North Yorkshire | 53,422 | 46,103 |
| Northamptonshire | 41,945 | 36,199 |
| Northumbria | 158,559 | 136,836 |
| Nottinghamshire | 94,900 | 81,899 |
| South Wales | 111,714 | 96,409 |
| South Yorkshire | 112,143 | 96,779 |
| Staffordshire | 91,454 | 78,925 |
| Suffolk | 44,572 | 38,466 |
| Surrey | 57,277 | 49,430 |
| Sussex | 107,150 | 92,470 |
| Thames Valley | 139,175 | 120,108 |
| Warwickshire | 30,317 | 26,164 |
| West Mercia | 72,910 | 62,921 |
| West Midlands | 279,511 | 241,218 |
| West Yorkshire | 206,221 | 177,969 |
| Wiltshire | 47,147 | 40,688 |
| Total | 4,523,154 | 3,903,482 |

## Illegal Immigrants: Northern Ireland

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what monitoring her Department conducts of the number of foreign nationals residing in Northern Ireland; and what steps she is taking to tackle illegal immigration in Northern Ireland. [171786]

**Mr. Byrne:** As with the previous parliamentary question answered 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 965-66W, the Border and Immigration Agency (the Agency) does not disaggregate statistics for areas within the UK. Migrants who are legally authorized to live and work in the UK may move freely within the UK and are subject to the legal constraints of their immigration status.

The Agency maintains records on Managed Migration, Asylum (Including Failed Asylum Seekers), and Foreign National Prisoners on a UK wide basis. The Agency works closely with the Police Service of Northern Ireland to combat illegal migration within Northern Ireland. The agency have immigration staff based in Belfast responsible for identifying illegal migrants in Northern Ireland. Activity is targeted according to intelligence received. The police prosecute on our behalf in appropriate cases, while the Agency is responsible for the administrative removal of those found in Northern Ireland unlawfully.

There is also a Managed Migration Compliance Team in Northern Ireland who work with employers and educational establishments to assist them to become a sponsor under the Points Based System. Should the compliance team uncover any illegal working it is passed to the relevant Intelligence unit for further investigation and action as specified above.

The Agency operates borders controls on international flights into Northern Ireland. We also work with the Garda National Immigration Bureau in Dublin to deal with migrants who cross the land border into Northern Ireland.

### Young Offenders: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many cautions were issued to those under 16 years of age in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* each police force area in Essex in each of the last five years; [165741]

(2) how many cautions were issued in Southend in each of the last five years; for what categories of offences cautions were issued; whether cautions may be repeated in respect of one individual for the same offence; and if she will make a statement. [165742]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the number of offenders aged 10 to 15 who were given final warning and reprimands for all offences in Essex police force area for the years 2001 to 2005 are given in the table. From June 2000, cautions for offenders under 18 years old were replaced by reprimands and final warnings. Data for 2006 will be available in late November of 2007.

Cautions data are only collected by the Ministry of Justice by police force area. Information held centrally does not allow a breakdown of cases by individual police services area within Essex nor can data be provided for the number of cautions issued in Southend.

If a caution has been received previously for any offence then a further simple caution should not be considered unless the current offence is trivial or unrelated to previous offences, or at least two years have passed indicating that the previous caution has had a significant deterrent effect. To help police officers exercise their discretion, guidance from the Home Office requires the police to check nationally and locally held records before administering a simple caution.

A simple caution is a non-statutory disposal which allows the police to deal quickly and simply with less serious offences, to divert offenders where appropriate from appearing in criminal courts and to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. Whether to caution an offender for a criminal offence is an operational matter for the police, and, in the case of indictable-only offences, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The police must consider whether a simple caution is appropriate to the offence and the offender, and whether it is likely to be effective in the circumstances.

*The number of offenders aged 10 to 15 years-old who were given final warnings or reprimands for all offences in Essex police force area for the years 2001 to 2005*[1, 2, 3]

| | Age | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *10* | *11* | *12* | *13* | *14* | *15* | *Total* |
| 2001 | 42 | 85 | 178 | 325 | 456 | 496 | 1,582 |
| 2002 | 31 | 62 | 154 | 321 | 374 | 393 | 1,335 |
| 2003 | 30 | 60 | 152 | 259 | 383 | 384 | 1,268 |
| 2004 | 35 | 77 | 185 | 312 | 423 | 504 | 1,536 |
| 2005 | 87 | 133 | 273 | 511 | 772 | 722 | 2,498 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

*Source:*

Court proceedings database held by RDS - OCJR, Ministry of Justice

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Animal Experiments

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to reduce the numbers of animals used for research purposes. [174575]

**Ian Pearson:** In 2004 Government established the National Centre for the Replacement Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NCSRs) to advance and promote the replacement, refinement and reduction of the use of animals in research. This is the first such centre to be established in the world and it receives funding from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) via the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). In September this year, I announced NCSRs would receive £2.4 million, an increase of £1 million, for 11 new 3Rs projects. The CSR period will see further increased funding rising from £2.3 million in 2007-08 to just over £5 million in 2010-11. The centre also received £250,000 funding from the Home Office in 2007-08. Home Office funding after 2007-08 will be confirmed in due course.

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) regulates the use of animals in scientific procedures in the UK. The principles of the 3Rs are implicit in the ASPA; all UK scientists are therefore legally obliged to use alternative approaches to the use of animals where possible, to use the minimum number of animals, and to use protocols which cause the least pain, suffering or distress.

## Apprentices

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeship places were (i) provided, (ii) filled and (iii) completed in England for those years for which data is available. [171988]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The ILR is a census of activity capturing provision that learners enrol on and not the number of places that are available to learners. The standard measure of success used is the success rate, which refers to the proportion of those who both complete and achieve the full apprenticeship framework in a given year. The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts in each year and success rates from August to July each year.

| | *Advanced Apprenticeship*[1] | | *Apprenticeship*[1] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Starts*[2] *(thousand)* | *Success rate*[2] *(percentage)* | *Starts*[2] *(thousand)* | *Success rate*[2] *(percentage)* |
| 2002-03 | 51,661 | 26 | 129,006 | 22 |
| 2003-04 | 56,959 | 32 | 136,606 | 30 |
| 2004-05 | 53,893 | 38 | 134,503 | 40 |
| 2005-06 | 50,628 | 53 | 120,682 | 53 |
| 2006-07 | 54,845 | 64 | 125,266 | 62 |

[1] Figures for 2002/-3 and 2003-04 are for advanced modern apprenticeships and foundation modern apprenticeships.

[2] The success rates shown in the table cannot be directly related to the number of starts in the same year because the 'starts' in any year are a different cohort of learners to those completing in that year.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* apprenticeships, *(b)* level 2 apprenticeships and *(c)* advanced apprenticeships there are, broken down by age group (i) 16 to 18, (ii) 19 to 25 and (iii) over 25 year olds. [173557]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts from August 2006 to July 2007. Apprenticeships are at level 2 and advanced apprenticeships are at level 3. (A further breakdown by adult ages is not readily available.)

| | *Advanced apprenticeship* | | | *Apprenticeship* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *16 to 18* | *19+* | *Total* | *16 to 18* | *19+* | *Total* |
| Starts | 23,741 | 31,104 | 54,845 | 79,054 | 46,212 | 125,266 |

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which apprenticeships are only available at level 2, broken down by framework. [174362]

**Mr. Lammy:** All Apprenticeships at level 2 have progression opportunities to advanced apprenticeships at level 3 in the same occupational area. The following are apprenticeship titles which are available only at level 2 and which lead to progression on to related advanced apprenticeships at the next level:

Animal Technology
Carry and Deliver goods
Dry Stone Walling
Fencing
Fire Detection and Alarm Systems
Fitted Interiors
Industrial Applications
Mail Services
Manufacturing (Engineering)
Munitions Clearance and Search Occupations
Optical Apprenticeship
Passenger Carrying Vehicles Driving—Bus and Coach
Polymers/Sign making
Ports Industry
Public Services
Rail Transport Operations
Saddlery
Safety, Security and Loss Prevention and Retail and Leisure Security
Security Systems
Support Services in Health Care
Team Leading
Textile Industry
Trees and Timber.

## Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174437]

**Mr. Lammy:** As the Department was formed this year we do not have five years of waste recycling to report on.

The Department's accommodation is currently located within buildings managed by DCSF and DBERR and as such would normally be reported within their estates performance on sustainable operations on the Government estate.

## Higher Education: Iran

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students subject to Foreign and Commonwealth Office visa requirements before entering the UK to study at university have studied at the Imam Hossein University in Tehran. [172371]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep records of which overseas universities student applicants have studied at. This information could only be provided by examination of individual visa application forms and therefore at disproportionate cost.

## Science: North West Region

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the comprehensive spending review on *(a)* major science research projects in the North West and *(b)* physics departments in North Western universities. [173088]

**Ian Pearson:** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* Funding for science over the three years of the comprehensive spending review will increase in real terms by 2.7 per cent. per annum in line with the Government's commitment given in the 10 Year Science and Innovation Framework 2004-14 to increase funding in line with GDP growth. The Government have commissioned two reviews of particular relevance to the future of major science research projects and physics departments in the North West. It has asked Sir Tom McKillop to advise on the best way to implement the Government's vision for the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus as part of his independent review into the future of the Manchester City Region and the North West economy. The Government have also asked Research Councils UK to conduct a number of further reviews of the health of disciplines in the UK. Bill Wakeham, Vice Chancellor of Southampton University, will lead the first of these reviews, which will address the health of physics in the UK.

## UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the estimate of *(a)* running costs and *(b)* other costs for the proposed UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation. [174373]

**Ian Pearson:** Detailed proposals for the scheme, which will include an estimate of the financial costs, will be developed in 2008. The annual running costs of the centre will be determined as the final scientific plan is developed.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of moving the National Institute for Medical Research to become part of the proposed new UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation; [174374]

(2) what contribution the Medical Research Council will make to the costs of the proposed UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation; [174417]

(3) if he will break down the £500 million allocation announced by the Prime Minister for the establishment of the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI) by main budget heading; what estimate he has made of annual staffing costs of the UKCMRI; and whether the £500 million figure is an indicative budget. [174418]

**Ian Pearson:** Detailed proposals for the scheme, which will include the proposed financial contribution of the current, and any future partners, will be developed in 2008. The cost of moving the NIMR to its new site has therefore yet to be determined and will in part rely upon the detailed analysis of the scientific advisory team and the yet to be appointed project director and his/her team. While the project cost has been broadly estimated by the consortium at around £500 million, this figure is indicative only and has yet to be finalised for future programme evaluation purposes, as has the total cost to the MRC. The annual cost of the centre will therefore be determined as the final scientific plan is developed.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many scientists have been consulted about the proposal to move the National Institute for Medical Research from its current site. [174375]

**Ian Pearson:** The MRC is working closely with staff at the NIMR to discuss progress and develop the proposals for the UKCMRI. Representatives from each partner organisation will contribute directly to the development of the scientific vision through the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Previous consultation on the renewal of the NIMR have involved the MRC Council, whose members are predominantly scientists, and specialist groups such as the Forward Investment Strategy Group and the Task Force whose membership comprised leading UK and international scientists. More generally, the proposed relocation of the NIMR was included in the Research Council's Roadmap 2007 which still is the subject of a public consultation.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the full terms of reference are of the Scientific Advisory Committee announced by the Prime Minister on 5 December to oversee the establishment of the proposed UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation; [174414]

(2) by what process appointments will be made to the Scientific Advisory Committee announced by the Prime Minister on 5 December to oversee the establishment of the proposed UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation. [174415]

**Ian Pearson:** The remit of the Scientific Advisory Committee to be chaired by Sir Paul Nurse will be to advise the consortium on: scientific direction, supporting facilities, high level design principles to maximise scientific synergy and the scale and scope of space for translational activities. They will also consider the potential for collaboration with other organisations.

The membership of the Scientific Planning Committee will bring together representatives from the partner organisations with additional independent members identified in consultation between Sir Paul Nurse and consortium partners.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent developing the proposal to move the National Institute for Medical Research to the site formerly occupied by the National Temperance Hospital. [174416]

**Ian Pearson:** Prior to June 2006, when plans for the UKCMRI began to develop, the MRC had spent £0.8 million on development costs in relation to the National Temperance Hospital site. Detailed proposals for the UKCMRI will be developed in 2008. However, a significant proportion of this earlier expenditure has directly informed the MRC's contribution to its development of an outline business case for UKCMRI.

### Vocational Education: Finance

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on average per skills for life course place in each year since 2003; and what the equivalent figure is expected to be in each year to 2011. [171989]

**Mr. Lammy:** The following table outlines the cost for each Skills for Life enrolment through the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) further education funding budget in 2005-06 and the estimated cost per enrolment from 2006-07 onwards.

| | *Cost per enrolment FE only (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 439 |
| 2006-07 | 620 |
| 2007-08 | 637 |
| 2008-09 | 652 |
| 2009-10 | 672 |
| 2010-11 | 688 |

This information is based on the LSC's 2005-06 data return which provides the most complete set of enrolment data returns in 2005-06 and is the earliest dataset available to model this information. Further education funding also accounts for 75 to 80 per cent. of total Skills for Life funding each year.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether it is the House's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for the festive decorations on the Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate. [173480]

**Nick Harvey:** The House's energy policy requires that energy efficiency is considered in relation to carrying out works around the estate. In relation to festive lighting the larger Christmas trees provided by the House in New Palace Yard and Westminster Hall, are fitted with LED bulbs. The remaining trees are provided with incandescent bulbs.

It is not House policy to stipulate that all festive decorations brought on to the parliamentary estate must contain LED rather than incandescent lights. Some of the festive lights have been used for several years.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for festive decorations on the Commons part of the Parliamentary estate; and how real trees are disposed of. [173525]

**Nick Harvey:** Real Christmas trees are provided by the House for general areas such as New Palace Yard and Westminster Hall and for catering areas. They are disposed of in an environmentally friendly way being turned into mulch. Artificial trees in some staff areas, for example at reception desks and in offices, are purchased by staff themselves and used from year to year.

### Management and Services of the House of Commons Review

**Mr. Doran:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what response the Commission has made to the review by Sir Kevin Tebbit of the management and services of the House. [175300]

**Nick Harvey:** The Commission has considered comments made on the Tebbit review in the debate in Westminster Hall on 18 October and taken into account the views of the Administration, Audit and Finance and Services Committees. A response to the 56 recommendations has been agreed by the Commission and will be published on 19 December as HC 193. Copies will be available on the website at:

www.parliament.uk/about_commons/house_of_commons_commission_/workinfo.cfm

The process of implementing the review has already started and will continue throughout 2008.

### Visitor Reception Building

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when he expects the Visitor Reception Building to open; what the expected cost of the new building was *(a)* at the commencement of building, *(b)* on 1 January 2006, *(c)* on 1 January 2007 and *(d)* on 1 November 2007; and what the final cost is expected to be. [174078]

**Nick Harvey:** The works were originally planned to be completed on 8 September 2006 and we now expect the site to be handed over to the Houses before Christmas 2007. The building is expected to open in early 2008. An exact date will be announced in the new year.

The original cost for the visitor reception building (which was part of a wider project of works in the Westminster Hall area) stated in the business case was £8,687,500. Work started on 9 January 2006. On 1 January 2007 the estimated cost was £8,727,500. Taking into account the delay and remedial work, by 1 November 2007 the cost was estimated at £11,200,000. While this is now expected to be the total cost of the building, some additional equipment will cost up to £250,000. Professional fees for completing the project and reviewing the lessons learned may add about £1 million more to the total cost. All the costs are shared between the Commons and Lords in the proportions of 60:40.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which company won the contract to build the Visitor Reception Building; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what recent discussions the House of Commons Commission has with the successful company about completing the contract; and if he will make a statement. [174079]

**Nick Harvey:** The company which won the competition to construct the visitor reception building is William Verry Ltd. The contract was advertised under EU rules: in all 14 expressions of interest were received and six companies short-listed. Evaluation criteria used for choosing a company were:

Financial: The liquidity and/or stability of the company.

Resources: Staff with relevant experience of the roles proposed and of projects of similar extent and nature, plus reserve capacity for the company.

Experience: The company having relevant experience of similar projects in terms of content, the duties undertaken and value.

Discussions with the contractor have continued throughout. Following the appointment of a recovery project manager in the summer of 2007, the Commission approved a supplemental agreement with the contractor providing for completion of the building by 31 January 2008.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by the House of Commons Commission on the maximum number of persons permitted to stand on the ramp leading to the Visitor Reception Building; who the House of Commons Commission consulted about (i) the design and (ii) construction of the ramp; why the ramp is not covered; and if he will make a statement. [174080]

**Nick Harvey:** The design of the entrance ramp was included within the general scope of work performed by the consultant structural engineer, Messrs TPS Consult Ltd., who carried out an evaluation of the loading capacity of the ramp based on the current loading-capacity design guidelines for footbridges: the number of persons who may be permitted to stand on it are only limited by the available space to do so.

The design of the visitor reception building was considered in detail by the local authority and English Heritage, who were insistent the new building should not detract from the architecture of the Palace of Westminster Hall. Accordingly the ramp was not covered as to do so would have impact the view of Westminster Hall as seen from St. Margaret's Street.

Handling of visitors in the new entrance will be managed by the visitor assistants stationed at the kiosk by St. Stephen's. They will control access to the fast-track and normal channels, to achieve a regular flow of visitors along the ramp, and into the visitor reception building. These plans have been evaluated by the Metropolitan police and the Central Tours Office. The design and construction of the ramp are part of the original design.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission who the House of Commons Commission consulted about the location of the Visitor Reception Building; what consideration the House of Commons Commission has given to alternative entry to the Palace of Westminster when Westminster Hall is in use; and if he will make a statement. [174081]

**Nick Harvey:** The location of the visitor reception building is based on the first report from the then Accommodation and Works and Administration Committees in 2003-04 (HC 324) which was approved by the House on 12 May 2004.

With the advent of the new security search arrangements in the Visitor reception building, all visitors will enter the Palace via the North Door of Westminster Hall and exit the same way. When events occur in Westminster Hall, visitors will be received through the best available search facility. The VRB will continue to be used, and visitors will if necessary be escorted via Star Chamber Court to their destination. Alternative entry points at Portcullis House and Black Rod's Garden will also be used.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what discussions the House of Commons Commission has had with the Metropolitan Police on the *(a)* design, *(b)* location and *(c)* construction of the Visitor Reception Building since the project was initiated; and if he will make a statement. [174082]

**Nick Harvey:** The Metropolitan police have been involved at every stage of the project.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Nitrates

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers did not comply with the action programme under the Nitrates Directive in each year since 1991; and how much total funding was deducted in each year from subsidy payments as a result. [173992]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: The Environment Agency is responsible for enforcing compliance in England, with the Action Programme under the nitrates directive. Inspections are undertaken either as part of the cross-compliance enforcement regime (the Action Programme is a statutory management requirement) or as part of the standalone enforcement regime under the nitrates directive. Available enforcement statistics are summarised in the following table:

| | *Number of farmers non-compliant* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007*[1] |
| Cross compliance | 15 | 55 | 29 |
| Standalone | 25 | 43 | 41 |
| Total | 40 | 98 | 70 |

[1] 12 December 2007.

The cases of non-compliance tabled have, to date, led to 162 producers in England having their subsidy reduced since cross compliance was introduced in 2005. Calculating the total amount of funding deducted in each year from subsidy payments would require intensive interrogation of the single payment scheme database. Therefore it is not possible to provide these figures within the time available.

### Agriculture: Non-Domestic Rates

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect on farming incomes of the removal of agriculture building relief; and if he will make a statement. [173980]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

The withdrawal of the agricultural buildings allowance (ABA) is part of a package of measures which also saw the reduction of the main rate of corporation tax and the introduction of a £50,000 annual investment allowance, allowing 95 per cent. of businesses to write off all their expenditure on plant and machinery in the year in which it is made. The effect of this package will vary according to the particular circumstances of a business.

### Animal Welfare: Birds of Prey

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many offences were committed against birds of prey in the United Kingdom in the last five years. [169544]

**Joan Ruddock:** No records of offences against birds of prey are kept. Data showing the number of defendants found guilty of bird related offences under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 from 2002 to 2006 in England and Wales are set out in the following table. It is not possible to distinguish between bird species.

*Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of selected offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006*[1] [2]

| *Offence* | *Statute* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Protection of captive birds | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 8 | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | — |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec1 | Protection of wild birds | 11 | 20 | 52 | 24 | 87 |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 1 | Protection of nests and eggs of wild birds | 7 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3 | Protection of wild birds in sanctuaries | — | 1 | — | | — |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3 | Protection of the nests and eggs of wild birds in sanctuaries | — | | — | | — |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3 | Illegal entry into bird sanctuaries | | — | — | | — |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 5 | Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 6 | Sale etc. of live or dead wild birds, eggs etc. | — | — | 1 | | 1 |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 7 | Registration etc. of certain captive birds | 2 | 2 | 1 | | — |
| Total | | 26 | 33 | 64 | 38 | 103 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis. [2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.

### Bellwin Scheme

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to extend funding under the Bellwin Scheme for areas affected by the flooding in Summer 2007 beyond 25 December. [172019]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The time limit for eligible spending for Bellwin grant in respect of local authority costs incurred in dealing with the June floods is 14 December 2007. For the July floods, it is 2 January 2008. That represents a considerable extension of the normal two-month period and there are no plans to extend the periods of eligibility further.

### Birds: Imports

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* CITES—Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora—and *(b)* non-CITES listed birds were imported into the EU each year between 2000 and 2006. [172697]

**Joan Ruddock:** The number of CITES listed birds imported into the EU between 2000 and 2006 was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 1,185,362 |
| 2001 | 877,028 |
| 2002 | 512,354 |

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 605,915 |
| 2004 | 665,672 |
| 2005 | 612,672 |
| 2006 | 1,121 |

The UK does not hold records on imports of non-CITES species into the EU.

### Cross Departmental Committee for Inland Waterways

**Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what *(a)* staff, *(b)* research support and *(c)* funding has been allocated to the Cross Departmental Committee for Inland Waterways; [174975]

(2) whether the Cross Departmental Committee for Inland Waterways is a permanent committee or time limited; [174976]

(3) who sits on the Cross Departmental Committee for Inland Waterways; [174977]

(4) what departments are represented on the Cross Departmental Committee for Inland Waterways; [174978]

(5) what the terms of reference are of the Cross Departmental Committee for Inland Waterways. [174979]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Inter-Departmental Working Group on Inland Waterways is supported by the Departments for Transport, Communities and Local Government, Culture, Media and Sport, Health and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. It will also be attended by British Waterways, the Inland Waterways Advisory Council and the Association of Navigation Authorities to inform the discussions and to help develop policy through bringing a delivery and stakeholder focus.

The first meeting took place on 17 December at which its role and future work were discussed. Terms of reference will now be worked-up for agreement at the next meeting. It is expected that the Group will meet three times a year. The Group itself will decide how long it continues. No specific resources have been allocated to the Group as it will make use of existing departmental resources as appropriate.

### Environment Agency: Finance

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent changes have there been in the allocation of funding for medium-term plans submitted to the Environment Agency; [172717]

(2) what score on the Environment Agency's predetermined scale is necessary for an application for medium-term plan funding to be classed as favourable for approval; and what score was needed to reach this rating for each of the last five years. [172718]

**Mr. Woolas:** From April 2008 and for the three-year comprehensive spending review (CSR) period, the Environment Agency and other operating authorities (i.e. local authorities and internal drainage boards) will deliver a number of outcome measures agreed with DEFRA. Targets will be set in the next few months.

During the CSR period, the current prioritisation method will migrate to a new system based around these outcome measures. While the new method is being developed and tested, the Environment Agency will use the existing system, moderated to take account of the outcome measures, urgent works or those required to fulfil legal requirements.

The achievement of these measures is an integral part of the prioritisation of the capital investment programmes for all operating authorities. As a result, all flood management and coastal erosion management schemes will be prioritised on a common basis.

As part of its strategic overview role for inland flooding and forthcoming strategic overview for matters associated with coastal flooding and erosion, the Environment Agency will administer the grant-in-aid arrangements, including extending its national programme management role to the prioritisation of schemes proposed by other operating authorities.

The priority score thresholds for the period from 2002-03 to 2005-06 were set by DEFRA as follows:

| | *Priority Score Thresholds* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 19 |
| 2004-05 | 20 |
| 2003-04 | 22 |
| 2002-03 | 20 |

DEFRA did not set a threshold score in 2006-07 when the Department's programme was fully committed. However, the priority score system has still been used to inform the allocation process for capital investment, moderated for urgent works or those required to fulfil legal requirements.

### Floods: House Insurance

**Mr. Ian Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for the Environment Agency's policy that insurers should refuse cover for homes which local authorities have allowed to be built on flood plains; and if he will make a statement. [174245]

**Mr. Woolas:** The decision whether to provide cover to properties on a flood plain is a matter for individual insurance companies. Insurance companies will take their own views on the risks that they are prepared to bear and at what cost; potential purchasers would be well advised to satisfy themselves that insurance will be available in the long term.

### Floods: Yorkshire and Humberside

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons he has reduced the budget for the north-east of England for the construction of flood defences, with particular reference to the budget for Yorkshire and the Humber. [170421]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Secretary of State has not reduced the budget for the construction of flood defences in the north of England this year; funding for the Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee is a matter for the Environment Agency.

### Game Birds

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 537W, on game birds, what the *(a)* evidential basis and *(b)* methodology was for the estimate the report referred to that 99 per cent. of game birds shot for sport were destined for the food chain; and if he will make a statement. [172820]

**Joan Ruddock:** The report was not commissioned by my Department. Any questions relating to the evidential basis and methodology of it should be referred to the commissioners of the report: the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the Countryside Alliance, the Game Conservancy Trust or the Country Land and Business Association.

### Nitrate Sensitive Areas

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the annual reduction in nitrates that will be achieved by the proposed extension of the closed period in nitrate vulnerable zones. [173993]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: The Regulatory Impact Assessment and paper "D5—Impact of the proposed Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Action Programme measures", published in support of the consultation on implementation of the nitrates directive in England, provide details of my Department's assessment of the likely impact of the proposed measures on losses of nitrate from agriculture.

It is estimated that the closed period for organic manure will reduce nitrate losses from agriculture by 0.5 per cent. to 1 per cent., and the closed period for manufactured nitrogen fertiliser will reduce losses by a further 0 per cent. to 1 per cent.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment and paper "D5—Impact of the proposed NVZ Action Programme measures" are available through DEFRA'S website.

### Renew Defra Programme

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what targets he has set for the Renew DEFRA programme; and if he will make a statement. [170930]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Renew DEFRA programme is an internal reform programme led by the Permanent Secretary which is due to complete in August 2008.

Work is being completed on the benefits realisation plan including work on baselining and setting appropriate targets and measures, and this will continue during and beyond the lifetime of the programme.

### Water: Nitrates

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of nitrates in water was *(a)* in England and *(b)* in Gloucestershire in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [173977]

**Mr. Woolas:** It is not possible to provide the information requested, as this would require extensive research to be undertaken at a disproportionate cost.

Approximately 7,000 surface water and 3,000 groundwater monitoring points in England and Wales were used to assess whether waters should be identified as polluted waters, in the recent review under the nitrates directive.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the potential cost to water companies of removing polluting nitrates from water; and if he will make a statement. [173979]

**Mr. Woolas:** The regulatory impact assessment accompanying the consultation on the implementation of the nitrates directive in England, provides details of my Department's assessment of the potential cost to water companies of removing polluting nitrates from water.

The cost to the water industry to reduce high nitrate levels caused by diffuse pollution in drinking water supplies has been estimated at £288 million (capital expenditure) and £6 million per annum (operating expenditure) for the 2005-10 period.

### Wind Power: Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on wind farms; and if he will make a statement. [174151]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, regularly meets with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to discuss issues relating to renewable and low carbon energy, including wind farms.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Capita

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 951W, on Capita, what services Capita and its subsidiaries provide to his Department. [168899]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department does not maintain a record of contracts that have been awarded and a complete and accurate answer to the question could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. I can tell the hon. Member, however, from information held centrally that Capita provide the following services to the Department:

Teachers' Pensions Administration;

National Strategies;

Consultancy support for the Children's Services Improvement Framework;

Project management and construction project management services for academies;

Management consultancy services to the Department;

A Criminal Records Bureau checking service for day care providers and

The supply of interim personnel and consultants for the Office of the Schools Commissioner and Academies.

### Children: Autism

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to assist parents whose children are autistic since 1997. [172642]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The Government have taken a range of steps to assist parents of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).

The Early Years Support programme has produced a Family Pack, including a booklet containing information for the parents of children with ASDs, who are going through the process of getting a diagnosis or have been recently diagnosed. It was produced in association with the National Autistic Society and Parents' Autism Campaign for Education. Over 50,000 copies have been distributed.

Under the Children, Young People and Families Grant Programme, the then Department for Education and Skills provided a grant of £220,000 over a three-year period to the TreeHouse Trust in 2006-07. This grant is to carry out work with parents' groups and local authority professionals on collaborative working towards better autism services and making information on ASDs more readily available. This year under this grant programme the Department for Children Schools and Families has awarded The National Autistic Society £200,000 over the next three years. This money will expand provision of courses to provide parents with an overview of autistic spectrum disorders; strategies on improving communication; guidance on educational rights and access to services and benefits.

The 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' report (May 2007) announced £280 million over 2008-11 to improve provision of short breaks for families of disabled children. Children with ASDs and their parents will benefit from this funding.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what resources have been provided for schools to assist with the education of children with autism since 1997. [172643]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* In 2002, the autism working group of the former Department for Education and Skills, published good practice guidance on autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs). The guidance is for schools, local authorities and others who provide for children with autism. Part one gives general guidance on autistic spectrum disorders and part two gives pointers to good practice which can be used to audit and develop provision. The online version contains examples to illustrate the pointers. Over 32,000 copies of the guidance have been distributed on demand.

The Department-funded regional partnerships have also provided resources for schools. For example guidance on delivering the curriculum for children with ASDs in secondary schools (north-west) and a video illustrating effective practice for children with ASDs (south-west). South-central has developed guidance for learning support assistants and Merseyside a transition toolkit for children with ASDs moving from primary to secondary school.

In 2007-08 six of the nine regional partnerships are being funded for autism related innovation projects. For example the south-east partnership has been awarded a grant of £50,000 to support secondary inclusion for young people with Asperger's syndrome.

In October this year the Government launched the Inclusion Development Programme (IDP). This £2 million project will improve the skills of teachers by advising them on how to develop teaching strategies for children with SEN and providing guidance on dealing with common classroom challenges. Phase two of the programme, which includes the production of training materials, will focus on support for children with ASDs.

This year the Government also provided funding for a group of voluntary organisations, The National Autistic Society, the TreeHouse Trust and the Council for Disabled Children, to set up the Autism Education Trust. The trust was launched on 12 November. The aim of the trust is to bring together voluntary and independent providers to plan and develop further improvements in education provision for children with autism.

In addition to these specific resources, children with ASDs will benefit from the sustained increases in funding for children with all types of special educational need (SEN). Local authorities' planned spending on SEN stood at almost £4.9 billion in 2007-08, up from almost £2.8 billion in 2000-01. Indicative SEN funding in mainstream schools rose by 52 per cent. from almost £1.3 billion in 2003-04 to over £2.0 billion in 2007-08 and school budgets for special schools rose by 31 per cent. from almost £1.1 billion to over £1.4 billion over the same period.

### Children: Databases

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to include independent schools in the operation of ContactPoint. [173982]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007 require independent schools to supply data for inclusion on ContactPoint. The regulations also provide for authorised staff in independent schools to be granted access to the database.

The Department is currently undertaking a study to assess the options, cost and feasibility of establishing a regular, departmental collection of pupil level data from independent schools.

Local authorities have been encouraged to approach independent schools in their area, to raise awareness of ContactPoint and to begin to identify which staff in independent schools should have access to ContactPoint.

The Independent Schools Council has participated in ContactPoint consultations on draft regulations and draft guidance. Officials have met with the Independent Schools Council on a number of occasions and hope to continue to engage them as we finalise the guidance and move towards the implementation of ContactPoint

### Children: Day Care

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in each *(a)* income decile, *(b)* region and *(c)* income decile in each region took up formal childcare in the last 12 months. [174728]

**Beverley Hughes:** The 2004 Parents' Childcare Survey[1] estimated that 3.42 million families in England used formal childcare in the last year. The proportion of families who used childcare over the last year by income and region is shown in the following table; income deciles cannot be calculated as the income data is collected in bands rather than actual amounts.

[1] Childcare and Early Years Provision: A Study of Report 723; DfES. Bryson, C., Kazimirski, A. and Southwood, H (2006). This report is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR723.pdf

*Table: Use of formal childcare in the last year by region and annual household income*

*Percentage of families*

| | *Under £10,000* | *£10,000 to £19,999* | *£20,000 to £31,999* | *£32,000+* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 51 | 49 | 50 | 63 | 51 |
| North West | 47 | 46 | 56 | 67 | 53 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 49 | 46 | 57 | 69 | 55 |
| East Midlands | 44 | 55 | 58 | 73 | 59 |
| West Midlands | 46 | 48 | 61 | 61 | 55 |
| East | 45 | 54 | 56 | 66 | 58 |
| London | 46 | 49 | 59 | 75 | 56 |
| South East | 47 | 57 | 64 | 69 | 62 |
| South West | 47 | 51 | 67 | 74 | 59 |
| Total | 47 | 50 | 59 | 69 | 57 |

Higher income families were more likely to have used childcare in the last year than lower income families; 69 per cent. of families with a yearly income over £32,000 had used formal childcare in the last year, compared with 47 per cent. of families with a yearly income of under £10,000.

Use of childcare varied by region; 51 per cent. of families in the North East had used formal childcare in the last year compared with 62 per cent. of families in the South East.

The results from the next Parents' Childcare Survey will be published in February 2008.

### Children: Hearing Impaired

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance is issued to local education authorities on the provision of signing assistance in schools for children with hearing impairments; [173548]

(2) what assessment he has made of the educational achievement of *(a)* deaf and *(b)* hearing impaired children in each of the last five years. [173549]

**Jim Knight:** There is no specific guidance issued to local authorities on the provision of signing assistance in schools for children with hearing impairments, however the SEN statutory framework and the SEN code of practice should ensure that all children with special needs have those needs identified and assessed and receive appropriate support.

It is for local authorities to determine what provision they make for children with special educational needs, including children with hearing impairment, taking into account the needs of the individual child, parental preference and local circumstances.

Parents of deaf and hearing impaired children with a statement of special educational needs, are able to express a preference for the maintained school they would like their children to attend based on the communication approaches offered by different schools auditory-oral, total communication and sign bilingualism.

We do not routinely make a separate assessment of the educational achievement of children with hearing impairment. All pupils both with and without SEN are assessed at the end of key stages of learning and pupils with a statement of SEN have their needs reviewed annually. We are currently in discussion with deaf and hearing impairment organisations about improving the availability of school attainment data for this group of pupils.

### Children: Poverty

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department is on course to meet the child poverty target set for 2010. [174338]

**Beverley Hughes:** We remain committed to meeting our poverty targets to halve child poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating it by 2020.

The publication of a new public service agreement reaffirms our commitment to halving child poverty and we have published a delivery agreement outlining how Government will work together to achieve this.

Between 1998-99 and 2005-06 the UK saw the biggest child poverty reduction in Europe and 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty. Together, PBR and Budget 2007 will lift up to a further 300,000 children out of poverty. Decisions on financial support will continue to be taken at PBRs and Budgets in the usual way.

### Children's Centres: Internet

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the Government's policy is on virtual children's centres. [174234]

**Beverley Hughes:** We expect all Sure Start children's centres to have a building as a focal point that is clearly identifiable as the Sure Start children's centre. A centre may comprise several neighbouring buildings each hosting some of the core services, although only one of these should be clearly identified as the reception and act as the centre's postal address. Ideally, we want to see services collocated, and under one roof, but accept that this will not always be achievable. In rural areas for example, where a centre serves families living across a wide geographical area, there will often be a main centre and a number of 'outreach' sites which support the delivery of services close to where families live. We are aware that some local authorities do use the term 'virtual children's centre' where they already have a range of services up and running, serving children and families, but the new building that will be the Sure Start children's centre is still under construction.

### Children's Centres: Midwives

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres make facilities available to midwives working in the community. [174233]

**Beverley Hughes:** All Sure Start children's centres should link to maternity services. The Government's Practice Guidance (2006) for local authorities and the health service says that in the most disadvantaged areas we expect to see midwives working from Sure Start children's centres, or having strong links with centres.

We do not collect information at national level on the nature and extent of services provided in every Sure Start children's centre. We have, however, asked our delivery contractors, Together for Children (TfC), to ensure that local authorities and local health partners are working together to plan and deliver children's centre services. TfC are also collecting evidence of good practice to share and disseminate with local authorities and the health service.

### Children's Centres: Standards

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards the target for a children's centre in each community by 2010. [174432]

**Beverley Hughes:** As of 13 December there are 1,789 designated Sure Start Children's Centres. The Government are on track to meet its commitment to deliver a Sure Start Children's Centre for every community in England by 2010, offering integrated services that will improve outcomes for young children, and reduce inequalities between the most disadvantaged and the rest.

### Children's Review: Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many submissions have been made online to the Children's Review. [173192]

**Kevin Brennan:** Details of responses received on line to the 'Time to talk' consultation can be found in the 'Time to Talk Consultation Report Summary'. The full report is available on the DCSF website. The relevant extract from the report shows:

*Response rates*

| *Method* | *Number of responses from adults* | *Number of responses from children/young people* |
|---|---|---|
| Online survey—adults (including adult toolkit response) | 1,960 | — |
| Online survey—young people | | 103 |

### Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect his departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [166422]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: The steps the Department has taken and intends to take are set out in the Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP), 'Learning for the Future', covering 2006-08. We recently submitted a progress report on this to the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), the Government's independent watch dog on Sustainable development.

SDC will be shortly be publishing their analysis of the progress of Government Departments.

We are currently working on the content of a new SDAP that will cover 2008-10. This will incorporate the Government's overall intentions as laid out in the recent Climate Change Bill and the cross-Government Adaptation Policy Framework to be published in the spring.

Subsequent SDAPs are likely to continue to reflect the work of the Department in addressing the effects of climate change on children, schools and families.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identities; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170239]

**Kevin Brennan:** We do not produce hard copies of our brand guidelines, but will have one copy printed for the Library, as requested.

*(a)* This year we spent £4,876 on revising existing brand guidelines when the Department for Children, Schools and Families was created.

*(b)* Complying with our brand guidelines incurs no additional cost. They have been designed to minimise costs, as we require no special inks, papers or formats.

We do not hold information centrally on agencies' costs.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department, its predecessors and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167353]

**Kevin Brennan:** The costs for producing branded material when the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was created were:

£14,215 for the design, production and installation of signs (to date).

£900 to recycle out-of-date stationery stock; electronic headed paper, at no cost, was used until the next scheduled production run of printed stationery.

A further £3472 of expenditure was incurred recently to replace the Department's signage at our Moorfoot site in Sheffield. However, these costs were primarily related to replacement of dilapidated signage.

This year we spent £4,876 on revising existing Department for Education and Skills brand guidelines when DCSF was created.

We do not hold information centrally on agencies' costs.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what targets his Department has sole or joint responsibility; what assessment he has made in each case of whether the target is being met; and if he will make a statement. [172096]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department published its autumn performance report on 7 December 2007 and copies are available in the House Library (Cm 7279). The autumn performance report assesses progress against my Department's Spending Review 2004 public service agreement (PSA) targets, including our efficiency target and any PSA targets outstanding from earlier Spending Reviews. The 2007 comprehensive spending review announced new PSAs for my Department to lead on, details of which are available on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/psa/pbr_csr07_psaindex.cfm

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information is collected against the performance management indicators published by the Citizen and Business Contact Centre. [173390]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* The Department's Public Communications Unit, which responds to public inquiries made by phone, letter and email, has submitted a response to the dry run Citizen and Business Contact Centre Council performance report for July-September 2007. The response is based on those indicators which are relevant to the contact services the Department provides.

### National Identity Register

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established; and what the estimated annual cost to his Department of that use is. [174028]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families has no current plans to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established.

### Pupil Exclusions

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many permanent exclusions in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there were in each of the last three years, broken down by school term. [171040]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information on the number of permanent exclusions broken down by school term is not available. Information is collected retrospectively via school census (SC) returns. Prior to 2005/06, school census returns were made on an annual basis. Since 2005/06, data for secondary schools have been collected termly, primary schools began making termly returns in 2006/07. As this is a new collection, data on numbers of permanent exclusions are subject to checking by local authorities. This is done on an annual basis; data broken down by school term are therefore not yet available

The readily available information on the number of permanent exclusions is given in the table.

*Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2], number of permanent exclusions by type of school, England, 1997/98 to 2005/06*

| | *1997/98* | *1998/99* | *1999/2000* | *2000/01*[3] | *2001/02* | *2002/03* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Primary schools* | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of permanent exclusions | 1,540 | 1,370 | 1,230 | 1,440 | 1,450 | 1,300 | 1,270 | 1,090 | 970 |
| Percentage of permanent exclusions[4] | 13 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 |
| Percentage of school population[5] | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 |
| *Secondary schools* | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of permanent exclusions | 10,190 | 8,640 | 6,710 | 7,310 | 7,740 | 7,690 | 8,320 | 8,070 | 7,990 |

*Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2], number of permanent exclusions by type of school, England, 1997/98 to 2005/06*

| | *1997/98* | *1998/99* | *1999/2000* | *2000/01*[3] | *2001/02* | *2002/03* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Percentage of permanent exclusions[4] | 83 | 83 | 81 | 80 | 81 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 87 |
| Percentage of school population[5] | 0.33 | 0.28 | 0.21 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.25 | 0.24 | 0.24 |
| *Special schools* | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of permanent exclusions | 570 | 440 | 380 | 390 | 340 | 300 | 300 | 280 | 210 |
| Percentage of permanent exclusions[4] | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Percentage of school population[5] | 0.58 | 0.45 | 0.40 | 0.41 | 0.36 | 032 | 0.33 | 0.31 | 0.23 |
| *All schools* | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of permanent exclusions | 12,300 | 10,440 | 8,320 | 9,140 | 9,540 | 9,290 | 9,880 | 9,440 | 9,170 |
| Percentage of permanent exclusions[4] | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Percentage of school population[5] | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.12 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.

[3] Permanent exclusions for 2000/01 are estimated as a number of local authorities have not confirmed the data for their schools.

[4] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number.

[5] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils in special schools) in January each year.

*Note:*

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*

School Census.

## Pupil Exclusions: Appeals

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what rights a parent has to appeal against permanent exclusion from *(a)* a maintained school and *(b)* an academy; and if he will make a statement. [173243]

**Kevin Brennan:** All permanent exclusions from a maintained school or an academy must be reviewed by the governing body. Parents have the right to make representations, in person or in writing, to the governing body's review meeting.

Where a maintained school's governing body upholds the decision to permanently exclude, the parent may appeal to an independent exclusion appeal panel. Academies, by virtue of the funding agreement, are required to have arrangements consistent with those for maintained schools: this requires them to make arrangements for an independent panel to consider parents' appeals against permanent exclusion.

## Pupils: Absenteeism

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many schools more than *(a)* 20 per cent., *(b)* 30 per cent., *(c)* 40 per cent., *(d)* 50 per cent., *(e)* 60 per cent., *(f)* 70 per cent., *(g)* 80 per cent., and *(h)* 90 per cent. of pupils took an unauthorised absence in the last school year for which figures are available, broken down by (i) region and (ii) local education authority; [169133]

(2) how many pupils recorded at least *(a)* one, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 40 unauthorised absences in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) region and (ii) local education authority. [169123]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

School level absence rates have previously been published as part of the Achievement and Attainments tables. These can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

## Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average spending per secondary school pupil in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* England was in each of the last 10 years. [173074]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is contained within the following table:

*Secondary[1] school based expenditure[2] per pupil[3] 1997-98 to 2006-07[4,5,6]*

| | *Staffordshire* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 2,110 | 2,360 |
| 1998-99 | 2,200 | 2,450 |
| 1999-2000[4,6] | 2,400 | 2,610 |
| 2000-01 | 2,620 | 2,830 |
| 2001-02 | 2,900 | 3,150 |
| 2002-03[4,5] | 2,850 | 3,230 |
| 2003-04 | 3,120 | 3,550 |
| 2004-05 | 3,400 | 3,800 |
| 2005-06 | 3,700 | 4,070 |

*Secondary[1] school based expenditure[2] per pupil[3]: 1997-98 to 2006-07[4,5,6]*

| | *Staffordshire* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07[7] | 3,950 | 4,320 |

[1] Figures for secondary schools include all expenditure incurred directly by local authority maintained secondary schools. This also includes any expenditure on 6th form pupils attending maintained secondary schools.

[2] School-based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.

[3] Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained secondary schools and are drawn from the DCSF Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[4] 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the DCLG (formerly ODPM) to the Section 52 form from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the blank rows.

[5] The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil of the England total. From 2002-03 onwards only the schools element of these categories is included and this accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the 2002-03 England total. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

[6] The 1999-2000 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance.

[7] Figures are as reported by local authorities as at 7 December 2007 and are rounded to the nearest 10. 2006-07 data is subject to change by the local authority.

*Note:*

Cash terms figures are provided here.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much per pupil will be received in each local authority area in England for the 2008-09 school year. [173440]

**Jim Knight:** The guaranteed per pupil unit of funding for 2008-09 for all local authorities are provided in the following table. This covers all funded pupils aged 3-15.

| *Local authority* | *2008-09 guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 4,563 |
| Barnet | 4,559 |
| Barnsley | 3,848 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 3,891 |
| Bedfordshire | 3,817 |
| Bexley | 4,151 |
| Birmingham | 4,448 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 4,254 |
| Blackpool | 3,982 |
| Bolton | 3,978 |
| Bournemouth | 3,825 |
| Bracknell Forest | 4,017 |
| Bradford | 4,107 |
| Brent | 4,894 |
| Brighton and Hove | 4,103 |
| Bristol, City of | 4,366 |
| Bromley | 3,966 |
| Buckinghamshire | 3,899 |
| Bury | 3,926 |
| Calderdale | 3,912 |
| Cambridgeshire | 3,787 |
| Camden | 6,161 |
| Cheshire | 3,880 |
| City of London | 7,362 |
| Cornwall | 3,742 |
| Coventry | 4,110 |
| Croydon | 4,267 |
| Cumbria | 3,831 |
| Darlington | 3,944 |
| Derby | 3,978 |
| Derbyshire | 3,825 |
| Devon | 3,707 |
| Doncaster | 3,941 |
| Dorset | 3,799 |
| Dudley | 3,949 |
| Durham | 3,982 |
| Baling | 4,832 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 3,715 |
| East Sussex | 3,997 |
| Enfield | 4,437 |
| Essex | 3,924 |
| Gateshead | 3,986 |
| Gloucestershire | 3,744 |
| Greenwich | 5,361 |
| Hackney | 6,170 |
| Halton | 4,226 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 5,635 |
| Hampshire | 3,824 |
| Haringey | 4,987 |
| Harrow | 4,507 |
| Hartlepool | 4,029 |
| Havering | 4,137 |
| Herefordshire | 3,687 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,896 |
| Hillingdon | 4,361 |
| Hounslow | 4,651 |
| Isle of Wight | 4,051 |
| Islington | 5,812 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 5,757 |
| Kent | 3,938 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 4,168 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4,256 |
| Kirklees | 3,947 |
| Knowsley | 4,236 |
| Lambeth | 5,848 |
| Lancashire | 3,927 |
| Leeds | 3,926 |
| Leicester | 4,151 |
| Leicestershire | 3,596 |
| Lewisham | 5,556 |
| Lincolnshire | 3,795 |
| Liverpool | 4,320 |
| Luton | 4,251 |
| Manchester | 4,571 |
| Medway | 4,034 |
| Merton | 4,452 |

| *Local authority* | *2008-09 guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| Middlesbrough | 4,182 |
| Milton Keynes | 4,080 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 4,096 |
| Newham | 5,071 |
| Norfolk | 3,807 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 4,134 |
| North Lincolnshire | 3,822 |
| North Somerset | 3,757 |
| North Tyneside | 3,836 |
| North Yorkshire | 3,854 |
| Northamptonshire | 3,785 |
| Northumberland | 3,711 |
| Nottingham | 4,500 |
| Nottinghamshire | 3,842 |
| Oldham | 4,118 |
| Oxfordshire | 3,870 |
| Peterborough | 4,098 |
| Plymouth | 3,889 |
| Poole | 3,724 |
| Portsmouth | 4,061 |
| Reading | 4,260 |
| Redbridge | 4,214 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 3,990 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 4,311 |
| Rochdale | 4,171 |
| Rotherham | 4,045 |
| Rutland | 3,898 |
| Salford | 4,309 |
| Sandwell | 4,214 |
| Sefton | 3,947 |
| Sheffield | 3,947 |
| Shropshire | 3,715 |
| Slough | 4,404 |
| Solihull | 3,750 |
| Somerset | 3,752 |
| South Gloucestershire | 3,647 |
| South Tyneside | 4,092 |
| Southampton | 4,117 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 4,026 |
| Southwark | 5,756 |
| St. Helens | 3,977 |
| Staffordshire | 3,776 |
| Stockport | 3,902 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 3,960 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 4,070 |
| Suffolk | 3,763 |
| Sunderland | 3,990 |
| Surrey | 3,976 |
| Sutton | 4,253 |
| Swindon | 3,775 |
| Tameside | 3,983 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 3,911 |
| Thurrock | 4,141 |
| Torbay | 3,922 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6,289 |
| Trafford | 3,852 |
| Wakefield | 3,881 |
| Walsall | 4,023 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,584 |
| Wandsworth | 5,146 |
| Warrington | 3,819 |
| Warwickshire | 3,789 |
| West Berkshire | 3,984 |
| West Sussex | 3,877 |
| Westminster | 5,439 |
| Wigan | 3,948 |
| Wiltshire | 3,713 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 4,040 |
| Wirral | 3,937 |
| Wokingham | 3,844 |
| Wolverhampton | 4,145 |
| Worcestershire | 3,729 |
| York | 3,801 |

*Notes:*

1. This covers funding through the dedicated schools grants (DSG).
2. This figure does not represent the totality of "education" funding allocated in that year. There are other grants that support the schools budget whose allocations have not yet been finalised—these are not included in the provided DSG figure.
3. Figures are in cash terms.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much per capita *(a)* the East Riding of Yorkshire council, *(b)* Hull city council, *(c)* North Lincolnshire council, *(d)* North East Lincolnshire council and *(e)* local authorities in England will receive in central government funding in 2007-08. [173568]

**Jim Knight:** The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006 and other grants. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.

| *Local authority* | *DSG plus grants 2007-08 (£)* |
|---|---|
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 4,104 |
| Kingston Upon Hull | 4,705 |
| North Lincolnshire | 4,279 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 4,661 |
| | |
| England average | 4,525 |

*Notes:*

1. This covers funding through the dedicated schools grant, school standards grant, school standards grant (personalisation) and standards fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LEA level.
2. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
3. Figures are in cash terms.

## Religion: Education

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which religious education (RE) local syllabuses include the study of the book Islam: Beliefs and Teachings by Gulam Sarwar; and which schools use the book in teaching RE. [173082]

**Jim Knight:** Locally agreed syllabuses do not contain references to specific texts, nor do the Government specify which texts should be used in schools. In 2004 we published a non-statutory framework for religious education, on which we encourage Agreed Syllabus Conferences to base their syllabuses. The framework places inclusion, tolerance, diversity and interfaith dialogue at the heart of children's learning. These principles are shared both by the Department and faith communities. It is up to schools and teachers to use their professional judgment as to how best to deliver religious education within the locally agreed syllabus and in the spirit of the framework.

### Schools: Admissions

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of the Schools Admission Code 2007 on families with twins, triplets or higher multiples; and if he will make a statement. [173123]

**Jim Knight:** Local authorities and admission authorities must act in accordance with the school admissions code. In relation to siblings at primary schools, it says that admission authorities should make sure in their oversubscription criteria that, as far as possible, siblings (including twins, triplets or children from other multiple births) can attend the same primary school, as long as they comply with the infant class size regulations. The code goes on to say that children at secondary school age are usually more independent, but does provide guidance for admission authorities on how to help meet parents' wishes where they wish siblings to continue to attend the same school.

The code makes schools' admission arrangements fairer and more transparent for parents. The code applies to admissions to schools from September 2008. We are therefore planning to look at what impact the code has had from 2008.

### Schools: Finance

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he decided the school funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11; what consideration he gave to small pockets of deprivation in determining the settlement; and if he will make a statement. [173443]

**Jim Knight:** On 12 November 2007, I announced to Parliament the three-year school funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11. My statement can be found on the teachernet website at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12219.

A new deprivation indicator is being used to fund the pockets of deprivation ministerial priority included in the 2008-11 dedicated schools grant allocations. Further information on the new indicator and the local authority allocations for pockets of deprivation is on teachernet at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/dsg200811/

### Science: GCE A-Level

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils in Suffolk have studied *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* biology and *(c)* physics A-Level in each of the last five years. [173452]

**Jim Knight:** The number of GCE A level entries by 16 to 18-year-olds in chemistry, biology and physics in Suffolk are provided in the following table. These numbers, as a proportion of all GCE A level entries in Suffolk, are also provided.

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Number of entries* | | | | | |
| Biology | 609 | 557 | 598 | 606 | 683 |
| Chemistry | 428 | 439 | 444 | 483 | 470 |
| Physics | 416 | 378 | 391 | 361 | 402 |
| *Proportion of all entries (percentage)* | | | | | |
| Biology | 7.2 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 7.2 |
| Chemistry | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.0 |
| Physics | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 3.9 | 4.3 |

[1] Figures for 2007 are provisional and subject to change.

### Special Educational Needs: Expenditure

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on special educational needs in each English local education authority in each year since 2000. [173071]

**Jim Knight:** The information is in the following tables:

*Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by local authorities in England since 2000-01*

£

| | *Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs*[1] [2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority name* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* |
| England | 2,763,226,000 | 2,908,380,000 | 3,038,661,000 | 3,466,180,000 |
| | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 9,383,000 | 6,293,000 | 11,935,000 | 12,812,000 |
| Barnet | 26,197,000 | 26,090,000 | 26,784,000 | 31,236,000 |
| Barnsley | 9,347,000 | 9,023,000 | 11,632,000 | 13,108,000 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 8,304,000 | 8,843,000 | 7,846,000 | 8,522,000 |
| Bedfordshire | 19,250,000 | 21,011,000 | 18,838,000 | 24,669,000 |
| Bexley | 14,451,000 | 16,754,000 | 17,731,000 | 21,465,000 |
| Birmingham | 92,031,000 | 95,614,000 | 99,409,000 | 113,255,000 |
| Blackburn and Darwen | 13,775,000 | 13,667,000 | 14,392,000 | 16,207,000 |
| Blackpool | 10,260,000 | 10,533,000 | 9,985,000 | 12,895,000 |

*Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by local authorities in England since 2000-01*

£

| *Local authority name* | *Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs*[1] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* |
| Bolton | 14,605,000 | 14,943,000 | 15,900,000 | 17,216,000 |
| Bournemouth | 8,264,000 | 8,702,000 | 9,590,000 | 10,517,000 |
| Bracknell Forest | 5,258,000 | 5,859,000 | 5,812,000 | 7,661,000 |
| Bradford | 34,027,000 | 35,997,000 | 23,914,000 | 26,423,000 |
| Brent | 15,181,000 | 16,626,000 | 17,099,000 | 18,891,000 |
| Brighton and Hove | 15,963,000 | 16,391,000 | 17,212,000 | 18,804,000 |
| Bromley | 16,356,000 | 16,987,000 | 16,549,000 | 23,357,000 |
| Buckinghamshire | 24,469,000 | 27,531,000 | 29,588,000 | 36,621,000 |
| Bury | 9,455,000 | 9,938,000 | 11,099,000 | 12,551,000 |
| Calderdale | 10,001,000 | 11,852,000 | 9,503,000 | 13,950,000 |
| Cambridgeshire | 31,017,000 | 33,352,000 | 36,290,000 | 44,958,000 |
| Camden | 9,490,000 | 14,215,000 | 13,056,000 | 15,388,000 |
| Cheshire | 31,671,000 | 33,787,000 | 36,732,000 | 43,613,000 |
| City of Bristol | 22,602,000 | 28,522,000 | 28,361,000 | 30,917,000 |
| City of Kingston-Upon-Hull | 16,344,000 | 17,231,000 | 17,033,000 | 19,679,000 |
| City of London | 202,000 | 242,000 | 336,000 | 401,000 |
| Cornwall | 20,772,000 | 24,127,000 | 24,489,000 | 28,480,000 |
| Coventry | 16,357,000 | 18,377,000 | 19,805,000 | 22,373,000 |
| Croydon | 20,241,000 | 22,008,000 | 21,252,000 | 24,969,000 |
| Cumbria | 22,777,000 | 23,761,000 | 29,097,000 | 28,807,000 |
| Darlington | 4,739,000 | 4,998,000 | 5,122,000 | 6,133,000 |
| Derby | 13,368,000 | 14,747,000 | 15,314,000 | 18,185,000 |
| Derbyshire | 46,256,000 | 49,566,000 | 51,128,000 | 57,146,000 |
| Devon | 35,733,000 | 37,437,000 | 38,267,000 | 43,144,000 |
| Doncaster | 14,078,000 | 12,936,000 | 14,984,000 | 16,562,000 |
| Dorset | 20,907,000 | 23,317,000 | 26,055,000 | 29,866,000 |
| Dudley | 15,583,000 | 17,018,000 | 17,670,000 | 19,074,000 |
| Durham | 25,485,000 | 25,564,000 | 26,424,000 | 29,875,000 |
| Ealing | 19,895,000 | 20,347,000 | 22,588,000 | 23,075,000 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 14,535,000 | 15,019,000 | 16,109,000 | 19,555,000 |
| East Sussex | 29,293,000 | 32,176,000 | 32,784,000 | 37,086,000 |
| Enfield | 19,814,000 | 20,172,000 | 19,667,000 | 23,536,000 |
| Essex | 62,904,000 | 68,285,000 | 69,328,000 | 75,876,000 |
| Gateshead | 10,480,000 | 9,871,000 | 11,292,000 | 10,722,000 |
| Gloucestershire | 26,751,000 | 27,878,000 | 30,971,000 | 33,530,000 |
| Greenwich | 20,336,000 | 19,883,000 | 21,328,000 | 23,425,000 |
| Hackney | 17,296,000 | 18,172,000 | 18,690,000 | 20,443,000 |
| Halton | 9,276,000 | 9,500,000 | 9,753,000 | 10,931,000 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 8,256,000 | 8,045,000 | 9,280,000 | 10,297,000 |
| Hampshire | 57,877,000 | 61,087,000 | 64,668,000 | 72,771,000 |
| Haringey | 14,782,000 | 16,974,000 | 20,411,000 | 21,628,000 |
| Harrow | 14,763,000 | 13,181,000 | 12,030,000 | 14,794,000 |
| Hartlepool | 7,002,000 | 7,248,000 | 7,505,000 | 7,889,000 |
| Havering | 9,333,000 | 9,595,000 | 9,607,000 | 10,842,000 |
| Herefordshire | 9,464,000 | 9,736,000 | 10,433,000 | 12,403,000 |
| Hertfordshire | 54,162,000 | 56,668,000 | 55,427,000 | 63,654,000 |
| Hillingdon | 15,789,000 | 18,143,000 | 19,137,000 | 21,263,000 |
| Hounslow | 14,772,000 | 16,092,000 | 16,395,000 | 20,330,000 |
| Isle of Wight | 8,091,000 | 8,207,000 | 8,425,000 | 9,394,000 |
| Isles of Scilly | 48,000 | 37,000 | 57,000 | 58,000 |
| Islington | 11,796,000 | 10,973,000 | 12,466,000 | 15,930,000 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 7,636,000 | 7,123,000 | 5,460,000 | 6,869,000 |
| Kent | 84,532,000 | 91,413,000 | 84,874,000 | 117,265,000 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 7,764,000 | 9,025,000 | 10,363,000 | 10,671,000 |
| Kirklees | 16,803,000 | 18,932,000 | 20,150,000 | 23,196,000 |
| Knowsley | 10,137,000 | 10,802,000 | 12,973,000 | 13,548,000 |
| Lambeth | 20,672,000 | 21,775,000 | 20,900,000 | 23,896,000 |
| Lancashire | 79,766,000 | 82,826,000 | 86,666,000 | 99,347,000 |
| Leeds | 37,167,000 | 40,409,000 | 42,897,000 | 46,444,000 |

*Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by local authorities in England since 2000-01*

£

| *Local authority name* | *Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs*[1] [2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* |
| Leicester | 20,227,000 | 18,264,000 | 20,411,000 | 21,414,000 |
| Leicestershire | 29,555,000 | 31,347,000 | 32,413,000 | 39,883,000 |
| Lewisham | 15,996,000 | 17,092,000 | 17,190,000 | 27,098,000 |
| Lincolnshire | 29,713,000 | 30,834,000 | 33,762,000 | 37,824,000 |
| Liverpool | 25,981,000 | 26,125,000 | 28,671,000 | 26,140,000 |
| Luton | 9,136,000 | 9,321,000 | 14,765,000 | 15,673,000 |
| Manchester | 24,053,000 | 26,238,000 | 28,448,000 | 35,869,000 |
| Medway | 17,821,000 | 18,581,000 | 18,325,000 | 22,817,000 |
| Merton | 11,422,000 | 12,169,000 | 12,696,000 | 13,467,000 |
| Middlesbrough | 8,272,000 | 8,790,000 | 9,034,000 | 10,111,000 |
| Milton Keynes | 14,383,000 | 14,386,000 | 17,972,000 | 18,928,000 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 14,605,000 | 9,758,000 | 14,476,000 | 16,418,000 |
| Newham | 19,623,000 | 21,807,000 | 24,554,000 | 28,901,000 |
| Norfolk | 34,824,000 | 37,782,000 | 38,304,000 | 42,233,000 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 10,181,000 | 10,472,000 | 8,609,000 | 11,888,000 |
| North Lincolnshire | 9,041,000 | 9,848,000 | 11,004,000 | 12,678,000 |
| North Somerset | 9,361,000 | 9,174,000 | 9,064,000 | 11,289,000 |
| North Tyneside | 8,953,000 | 8,987,000 | 10,599,000 | 11,905,000 |
| North Yorkshire | 29,813,000 | 31,360,000 | 35,864,000 | 31,827,000 |
| Northamptonshire | 30,405,000 | 31,926,000 | 34,506,000 | 36,174,000 |
| Northumberland | 26,717,000 | 27,279,000 | 29,158,000 | 32,934,000 |
| Nottingham City | 14,472,000 | 14,414,000 | 8,780,000 | 16,444,000 |
| Nottinghamshire | 26,889,000 | 29,117,000 | 33,316,000 | 34,350,000 |
| Oldham | 12,723,000 | 13,335,000 | 13,056,000 | 14,871,000 |
| Oxfordshire | 25,847,000 | 28,246,000 | 27,346,000 | 31,417,000 |
| Peterborough | 12,325,000 | 13,410,000 | 14,787,000 | 16,936,000 |
| Plymouth | 15,867,000 | 16,758,000 | 17,414,000 | 15,686,000 |
| Poole | 6,668,000 | 6,901,000 | 7,613,000 | 5,411,000 |
| Portsmouth | 10,331,000 | 11,386,000 | 11,634,000 | 13,134,000 |
| Reading | 7,331,000 | 7,371,000 | 8,259,000 | 6,780,000 |
| Redbridge | 12,670,000 | 13,658,000 | 14,655,000 | 16,587,000 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 8,779,000 | 7,953,000 | 6,781,000 | 9,432,000 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 6,228,000 | 8,651,000 | 7,935,000 | 10,085,000 |
| Rochdale | 11,384,000 | 11,841,000 | 13,400,000 | 14,687,000 |
| Rotherham | 11,181,000 | 11,771,000 | 18,004,000 | 19,876,000 |
| Rutland | 1,418,000 | 1,548,000 | 1,486,000 | 1,714,000 |
| Salford | 15,807,000 | 16,268,000 | 15,763,000 | 18,548,000 |
| Sandwell | 19,169,000 | 19,293,000 | 18,567,000 | 18,710,000 |
| Sefton | 15,161,000 | 14,700,000 | 15,122,000 | 16,495,000 |
| Sheffield | 21,201,000 | 22,148,000 | 20,328,000 | 27,267,000 |
| Shropshire | 10,724,000 | 11,716,000 | 12,581,000 | 15,244,000 |
| Slough | 7,722,000 | 8,076,000 | 8,453,000 | 10,715,000 |
| Solihull | 10,561,000 | 10,576,000 | 11,125,000 | 12,335,000 |
| Somerset | 21,932,000 | 22,268,000 | 26,714,000 | 29,068,000 |
| South Gloucestershire | 12,108,000 | 12,745,000 | 12,750,000 | 9,698,000 |
| South Tyneside | 15,465,000 | 16,413,000 | 17,211,000 | 10,163,000 |
| Southampton | 10,526,000 | 11,846,000 | 11,973,000 | 13,003,000 |
| Southend | 8,867,000 | 10,222,000 | 10,653,000 | 13,096,000 |
| Southwark | 20,278,000 | 21,253,000 | 20,208,000 | 23,129,000 |
| St. Helens | 8,987,000 | 9,277,000 | 9,477,000 | 11,612,000 |
| Staffordshire | 30,120,000 | 38,600,000 | 43,505,000 | 52,707,000 |
| Stockport | 12,546,000 | 14,109,000 | 13,252,000 | 14,181,000 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 11,150,000 | 12,562,000 | 12,659,000 | 15,175,000 |
| Stoke on Trent | 9,956,000 | 10,751,000 | 11,517,000 | 13,819,000 |
| Suffolk | 22,845,000 | 23,452,000 | 29,012,000 | 32,374,000 |
| Sunderland | 12,415,000 | 10,962,000 | 11,856,000 | 15,693,000 |
| Surrey | 61,123,000 | 62,218,000 | 69,738,000 | 82,021,000 |
| Sutton | 11,443,000 | 12,880,000 | 15,259,000 | 16,863,000 |
| Swindon | 11,380,000 | 12,546,000 | 12,757,000 | 12,519,000 |

*Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by local authorities in England since 2000-01*

£

| *Local authority name* | *Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs*[1,2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* |
| Tameside | 11,394,000 | 11,734,000 | 10,584,000 | 12,381,000 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 10,505,000 | 11,575,000 | 10,765,000 | 12,565,000 |
| Thurrock | 7,425,000 | 7,788,000 | 8,774,000 | 9,979,000 |
| Torbay | 6,355,000 | 6,938,000 | 6,295,000 | 7,723,000 |
| Tower Hamlets | 24,829,000 | 24,946,000 | 22,926,000 | 27,202,000 |
| Trafford | 10,841,000 | 11,167,000 | 12,073,000 | 14,494,000 |
| Wakefield | 17,260,000 | 15,580,000 | 15,103,000 | 18,328,000 |
| Walsall | 16,697,000 | 17,869,000 | 18,671,000 | 24,714,000 |
| Waltham Forest | 14,395,000 | 15,119,000 | 18,181,000 | 17,295,000 |
| Wandsworth | 17,511,000 | 18,312,000 | 18,815,000 | 19,980,000 |
| Warrington | 9,340,000 | 9,803,000 | 10,150,000 | 11,357,000 |
| Warwickshire | 31,216,000 | 30,659,000 | 32,508,000 | 37,871,000 |
| West Berkshire | 6,647,000 | 7,420,000 | 7,664,000 | 9,260,000 |
| West Sussex | 44,923,000 | 45,567,000 | 50,632,000 | 54,732,000 |
| Westminster | 8,314,000 | 8,814,000 | 9,760,000 | 11,901,000 |
| Wigan | 19,757,000 | 17,858,000 | 18,177,000 | 20,046,000 |
| Wiltshire | 17,175,000 | 18,351,000 | 20,829,000 | 23,839,000 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 4,988,000 | 5,881,000 | 6,284,000 | 7,904,000 |
| Wirral | 19,936,000 | 21,501,000 | 21,377,000 | 24,853,000 |
| Wokingham | 6,148,000 | 6,893,000 | 6,515,000 | 8,143,000 |
| Wolverhampton | 15,205,000 | 15,287,000 | 16,178,000 | 18,295,000 |
| Worcestershire | 22,841,000 | 23,550,000 | 22,755,000 | 25,648,000 |
| York | 8,450,000 | 9,536,000 | 10,015,000 | 9,957,000 |

£

| *Local authority name* | *Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs*[1,2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08*[3] |
| England | 3,774,757,000 | 4,120,549,000 | 4,481,245,000 | 4,868,571,000 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 15,361,000 | 17,273,000 | 10,185,000 | 20,173,000 |
| Barnet | 33,519,000 | 35,919,000 | 39,566,000 | 42,190,000 |
| Barnsley | 13,937,000 | 14,700,000 | 15,964,000 | 17,231,000 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 8,743,000 | 9,639,000 | 10,017,000 | 10,936,000 |
| Bedfordshire | 26,198,000 | 27,455,000 | 31,224,000 | 32,013,000 |
| Bexley | 21,511,000 | 23,460,000 | 25,672,000 | 26,174,000 |
| Birmingham | 124,938,000 | 131,932,000 | 148,725,000 | 167,503,000 |
| Blackburn and Darwen | 17,320,000 | 19,210,000 | 20,652,000 | 23,552,000 |
| Blackpool | 12,827,000 | 13,556,000 | 14,241,000 | 15,020,000 |
| Bolton | 18,983,000 | 19,429,000 | 21,987,000 | 22,747,000 |
| Bournemouth | 10,705,000 | 11,179,000 | 14,080,000 | 14,964,000 |
| Bracknell Forest | 8,010,000 | 8,756,000 | 9,824,000 | 11,317,000 |
| Bradford | 36,831,000 | 43,949,000 | 49,586,000 | 53,123,000 |
| Brent | 23,316,000 | 25,070,000 | 26,652,000 | 31,250,000 |
| Brighton and Hove | 20,699,000 | 21,963,000 | 23,408,000 | 25,187,000 |
| Bromley | 22,286,000 | 27,542,000 | 30,201,000 | 31,631,000 |
| Buckinghamshire | 41,540,000 | 46,063,000 | 57,542,000 | 62,612,000 |
| Bury | 13,375,000 | 15,915,000 | 16,940,000 | 17,891,000 |
| Calderdale | 14,336,000 | 15,728,000 | 17,758,000 | 20,634,000 |
| Cambridgeshire | 42,980,000 | 45,120,000 | 47,217,000 | 48,756,000 |
| Camden | 16,790,000 | 19,673,000 | 19,867,000 | 24,670,000 |
| Cheshire | 47,962,000 | 58,423,000 | 65,851,000 | 69,129,000 |
| City of Bristol | 30,758,000 | 32,844,000 | 35,097,000 | 37,908,000 |
| City of Kingston-Upon-Hull | 21,643,000 | 22,823,000 | 23,838,000 | 25,965,000 |
| City of London | 432,000 | 398,000 | 377,000 | 331,000 |
| Cornwall | 29,051,000 | 29,923,000 | 34,862,000 | 40,106,000 |
| Coventry | 24,564,000 | 25,827,000 | 27,627,000 | 37,654,000 |
| Croydon | 25,453,000 | 29,434,000 | 31,037,000 | 38,185,000 |
| Cumbria | 29,383,000 | 29,903,000 | 32,848,000 | 35,418,000 |
| Darlington | 6,699,000 | 7,490,000 | 7,890,000 | 8,514,000 |

£

| Local authority name | Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs[1] [2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08[3] |
| Derby | 22,029,000 | 24,248,000 | 27,015,000 | 28,907,000 |
| Derbyshire | 61,514,000 | 66,796,000 | 72,772,000 | 80,430,000 |
| Devon | 44,722,000 | 50,157,000 | 55,916,000 | 62,251,000 |
| Doncaster | 18,082,000 | 18,491,000 | 19,167,000 | 19,958,000 |
| Dorset | 31,959,000 | 33,357,000 | 35,502,000 | 35,838,000 |
| Dudley | 19,641,000 | 21,624,000 | 22,788,000 | 24,873,000 |
| Durham | 30,293,000 | 30,273,000 | 36,640,000 | 38,686,000 |
| Ealing | 24,729,000 | 25,931,000 | 29,365,000 | 33,204,000 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 19,095,000 | 20,982,000 | 23,447,000 | 25,036,000 |
| East Sussex | 41,167,000 | 43,380,000 | 46,760,000 | 49,826,000 |
| Enfield | 26,770,000 | 27,851,000 | 28,435,000 | 31,522,000 |
| Essex | 81,359,000 | 87,946,000 | 96,982,000 | 103,046,000 |
| Gateshead | 12,226,000 | 14,414,000 | 16,503,000 | 19,278,000 |
| Gloucestershire | 36,562,000 | 39,161,000 | 42,524,000 | 44,614,000 |
| Greenwich | 26,412,000 | 27,615,000 | 27,874,000 | 28,511,000 |
| Hackney | 23,688,000 | 35,951,000 | 28,174,000 | 27,953,000 |
| Halton | 11,073,000 | 11,452,000 | 11,664,000 | 12,178,000 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 12,558,000 | 13,901,000 | 12,063,000 | 15,145,000 |
| Hampshire | 78,183,000 | 81,129,000 | 84,592,000 | 91,351,000 |
| Haringey | 26,314,000 | 27,455,000 | 29,883,000 | 29,957,000 |
| Harrow | 18,630,000 | 20,632,000 | 20,509,000 | 26,638,000 |
| Hartlepool | 8,252,000 | 8,923,000 | 9,444,000 | 10,146,000 |
| Havering | 11,452,000 | 12,489,000 | 14,174,000 | 15,787,000 |
| Herefordshire | 13,027,000 | 13,781,000 | 14,840,000 | 16,205,000 |
| Hertfordshire | 71,970,000 | 75,794,000 | 79,344,000 | 87,928,000 |
| Hillingdon | 23,350,000 | 23,908,000 | 25,700,000 | 26,436,000 |
| Hounslow | 21,412,000 | 23,867,000 | 27,061,000 | 27,465,000 |
| Isle of Wight | 9,933,000 | 10,429,000 | 10,356,000 | 11,087,000 |
| Isles of Scilly | 53,000 | 221,000 | 211,000 | 129,000 |
| Islington | 18,090,000 | 19,091,000 | 20,715,000 | 22,011,000 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 7,434,000 | 8,093,000 | 8,938,000 | 9,678,000 |
| Kent | 100,270,000 | 133,843,000 | 128,769,000 | 143,573,000 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 12,073,000 | 13,095,000 | 13,900,000 | 15,771,000 |
| Kirklees | 25,335,000 | 25,619,000 | 26,683,000 | 27,406,000 |
| Knowsley | 13,715,000 | 14,292,000 | 14,481,000 | 16,088,000 |
| Lambeth | 26,150,000 | 27,537,000 | 29,986,000 | 33,078,000 |
| Lancashire | 106,320,000 | 109,113,000 | 118,120,000 | 128,721,000 |
| Leeds | 50,882,000 | 53,623,000 | 55,013,000 | 57,528,000 |
| Leicester | 22,926,000 | 29,747,000 | 32,235,000 | 36,411,000 |
| Leicestershire | 43,789,000 | 45,882,000 | 49,728,000 | 52,800,000 |
| Lewisham | 27,139,000 | 27,051,000 | 31,277,000 | 33,527,000 |
| Lincolnshire | 26,340,000 | 48,686,000 | 52,841,000 | 56,252,000 |
| Liverpool | 25,510,000 | 29,166,000 | 31,394,000 | 34,413,000 |
| Luton | 17,867,000 | 17,431,000 | 21,541,000 | 23,164,000 |
| Manchester | 33,912,000 | 38,646,000 | 54,584,000 | 58,501,000 |
| Medway | 24,297,000 | 24,726,000 | 26,626,000 | 28,617,000 |
| Merton | 14,001,000 | 16,888,000 | 19,476,000 | 21,320,000 |
| Middlesbrough | 11,311,000 | 13,092,000 | 17,145,000 | 17,010,000 |
| Milton Keynes | 21,131,000 | 22,269,000 | 24,772,000 | 28,150,000 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 18,893,000 | 19,778,000 | 21,666,000 | 23,387,000 |
| Newham | 31,592,000 | 37,180,000 | 39,891,000 | 42,125,000 |
| Norfolk | 44,946,000 | 48,604,000 | 51,472,000 | 60,953,000 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 12,432,000 | 13,955,000 | 17,938,000 | 17,845,000 |
| North Lincolnshire | 13,471,000 | 14,645,000 | 11,523,000 | 13,384,000 |
| North Somerset | 12,721,000 | 13,564,000 | 14,737,000 | 16,615,000 |
| North Tyneside | 15,837,000 | 16,151,000 | 17,038,000 | 19,233,000 |
| North Yorkshire | 35,502,000 | 44,326,000 | 47,650,000 | 54,554,000 |
| Northamptonshire | 41,370,000 | 44,064,000 | 48,735,000 | 50,889,000 |

£

| Local authority name | Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs[1, 2] 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northumberland | 36,021,000 | 38,168,000 | 42,193,000 | 27,250,000 |
| Nottingham City | 18,301,000 | 20,320,000 | 21,956,000 | 23,055,000 |
| Nottinghamshire | 39,028,000 | 32,012,000 | 36,964,000 | 37,506,000 |
| Oldham | 15,819,000 | 17,680,000 | 17,486,000 | 20,261,000 |
| Oxfordshire | 39,689,000 | 42,763,000 | 45,838,000 | 47,755,000 |
| Peterborough | 18,620,000 | 20,337,000 | 23,188,000 | 24,838,000 |
| Plymouth | 17,456,000 | 18,088,000 | 18,386,000 | 26,421,000 |
| Poole | 9,086,000 | 9,383,000 | 10,368,000 | 11,294,000 |
| Portsmouth | 13,464,000 | 13,766,000 | 14,776,000 | 15,414,000 |
| Reading | 10,324,000 | 12,313,000 | 13,390,000 | 14,805,000 |
| Redbridge | 19,880,000 | 20,907,000 | 24,039,000 | 26,216,000 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 10,360,000 | 10,817,000 | 10,454,000 | 13,562,000 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 11,679,000 | 12,170,000 | 13,922,000 | 15,440,000 |
| Rochdale | 15,671,000 | 17,076,000 | 18,455,000 | 19,294,000 |
| Rotherham | 21,618,000 | 23,492,000 | 23,823,000 | 24,248,000 |
| Rutland | 1,933,000 | 2,395,000 | 2,268,000 | 2,961,000 |
| Salford | 20,283,000 | 30,012,000 | 24,211,000 | 24,178,000 |
| Sandwell | 28,862,000 | 31,827,000 | 33,774,000 | 35,879,000 |
| Sefton | 17,523,000 | 18,539,000 | 20,391,000 | 20,786,000 |
| Sheffield | 30,944,000 | 35,692,000 | 39,836,000 | 42,662,000 |
| Shropshire | 16,280,000 | 17,467,000 | 17,638,000 | 18,395,000 |
| Slough | 12,419,000 | 13,993,000 | 14,381,000 | 16,633,000 |
| Solihull | 13,814,000 | 14,757,000 | 18,464,000 | 19,522,000 |
| Somerset | 30,023,000 | 33,934,000 | 37,238,000 | 40,845,000 |
| South Gloucestershire | 16,307,000 | 18,338,000 | 19,356,000 | 21,567,000 |
| South Tyneside | 11,886,000 | 12,850,000 | 24,799,000 | 25,234,000 |
| Southampton | 14,289,000 | 14,693,000 | 15,464,000 | 16,214,000 |
| Southend | 15,107,000 | 15,810,000 | 19,076,000 | 21,469,000 |
| Southwark | 26,440,000 | 28,224,000 | 28,555,000 | 32,171,000 |
| St. Helens | 12,156,000 | 12,037,000 | 13,067,000 | 13,775,000 |
| Staffordshire | 59,548,000 | 62,075,000 | 63,829,000 | 59,045,000 |
| Stockport | 17,038,000 | 20,558,000 | 20,963,000 | 20,941,000 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 16,172,000 | 17,330,000 | 18,594,090 | 20,657,000 |
| Stoke on Trent | 17,297,000 | 19,099,000 | 16,310,000 | 23,432,000 |
| Suffolk | 41,529,000 | 43,991,000 | 50,159,000 | 57,750,000 |
| Sunderland | 20,825,000 | 21,171,000 | 19,993,000 | 22,448,000 |
| Surrey | 93,017,000 | 100,952,000 | 106,330,000 | 110,753,000 |
| Sutton | 18,707,000 | 20,432,000 | 22,261,000 | 25,118,000 |
| Swindon | 16,031,000 | 12,466,000 | 17,980,000 | 18,705,000 |
| Tameside | 13,271,000 | 14,151,000 | 14,978,000 | 17,793,000 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 12,509,000 | 13,614,000 | 14,437,000 | 15,493,000 |
| Thurrock | 11,076,000 | 10,574,000 | 11,475,000 | 13,926,000 |
| Torbay | 8,358,000 | 8,459,000 | 9,472,000 | 9,803,000 |
| Tower Hamlets | 29,593,000 | 33,297,000 | 37,003,000 | 41,374,000 |
| Trafford | 15,917,000 | 17,799,000 | 18,355,000 | 19,640,000 |
| Wakefield | 18,826,000 | 22,217,000 | 25,110,000 | 26,151,000 |
| Walsall | 25,904,000 | 25,659,000 | 30,300,000 | 31,562,000 |
| Waltham Forest | 19,097,000 | 22,321,000 | 26,658,000 | 29,857,000 |
| Wandsworth | 25,704,000 | 27,833,000 | 26,843,000 | 33,551,000 |
| Warrington | 12,315,000 | 13,275,000 | 15,056,000 | 16,477,000 |
| Warwickshire | 41,677,000 | 44,692,000 | 47,384,000 | 50,882,000 |
| West Berkshire | 10,499,000 | 11,758,000 | 13,057,000 | 15,740,000 |
| West Sussex | 58,883,000 | 51,014,000 | 76,617,000 | 82,191,000 |
| Westminster | 12,750,000 | 17,506,000 | 18,241,000 | 23,203,000 |
| Wigan | 21,306,000 | 21,[illegible]01,000 | 24,929,000 | 26,272,000 |
| Wiltshire | 25,703,000 | 28,149,000 | 30,429,000 | 32,696,000 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 9,269,000 | 10,503,000 | 11,987,000 | 13,389,000 |
| Wirral | 25,931,000 | 27,849,000 | 31,093,000 | 32,642,000 |

£

| *Local authority name* | *Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs*[1, 2] *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08*[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wokingham | 9,460,000 | 11,927,000 | 11,336,000 | 12,113,000 |
| Wolverhampton | 19,566,000 | 21,135,000 | 22,164,000 | 24,712,000 |
| Worcestershire | 28,741,000 | 32,292,000 | 41,723,000 | 46,703,000 |
| York | 11,091 000 | 12,288,000 | 13,122,000 | 13,729,000 |

[1] Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter-authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.

[2] The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN and, from 2004-05 onwards, "notional SEN" delegated to nursery schools was reported on Section 52 for the first time (nursery schools "notional SEN" accounts for £7.8 million, £9.5 million, £10.4 million and £11.3 million of the respective 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 England totals). In 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 local authorities in England also budgeted £499.6 million, £528.5 million and £554.9 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the table as figures are not available prior to 2005-06.

[3] 2007-08 data are subject to change by the local authority.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and may not sum due to rounding.
2. The data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements (Tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DCSF (formally the DfES).
3. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 7 December 2007.

## Sports: Females

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which sport has the highest rate of participation for females in schools in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* England. [173255]

**Kevin Brennan:** These data have not been collected centrally. The annual School Sport Survey collects data relating to PE and School Sport at a school, rather than pupil level. The 2006-07 survey found that dance was the most widely offered activity in single-sex girls' schools. No such maintained schools exist in Staffordshire.

## Teachers: Public Opinion

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department conducted *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* other qualitative or quantitative opinion research of teachers. [173367]

**Jim Knight:** The Department often commissions research which involves both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Qualitative research may involve collecting data from the school work force using discussion groups, but other methods can be also used such as face to face interviews and lesson observation. Quantitative methods my involve commissioning a survey of teachers or the secondary analysis of existing survey data.

The choice of an appropriate data collection method is dependent on the research aims and the time and budget available to carry out the research project.

## Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the suitability of his Department's call centre automated response systems in meeting the needs of customers; and if he will make a statement. [173100]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department's telephone inquiry line does not operate an automated response system. All callers are put through to an available operator. An answer machine is in operation outside the hours of 9 am to 5 pm.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures are in place to ensure his Department's customer contact centres are helpful to people who need to deal with a variety of queries in one call. [173101]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department's telephone inquiry line does not operate an automated response system. Customers are put straight through to available operators who are able to deal with a variety of inquiries. Our target is to answer 80 per cent. of the calls without transferring and our performance to date is 88 per cent. Customer satisfaction is monitored by way of an annual survey.

## Unemployment

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children were living in workless households in each region in each quarter since January 1997, broken down by ethnicity. [174725]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to provide a break-down of the proportion of children of each ethnicity who were living in workless households in each region in each quarter since January 1997. Data from the Labour Force Survey provide very small sample sizes when the data are broken down by both region and ethnicity, leading to figures that may be misleading. Officials are currently investigating ways of overcoming this problem, and I will write to the hon. Member in the near future, if the analysis is feasible.

Historical data at a national level is however readily available. The proportion of children living in workless households stood at 18.4 per cent. in 1997. Since then the overall trend has been falling; in 2006, the proportion of children living in workless households stood at 15.3 per cent. In 2007 the Labour Force Survey moved from spring to calendar quarters (Q2), consequently the 2007 figure of 16 per cent. is not directly comparable with previous years.

*Children living in workless households (Great Britain)*[1]

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 1992 | 18.7 |
| 1993 | 19.1 |
| 1994 | 19.8 |
| 1995 | 19.3 |
| 1996 | 19.3 |
| 1997 | 18.4 |
| 1998 | 18.5 |
| 1999 | 18.0 |
| 2000 | 16.4 |
| 2001 | 16.1 |
| 2002 | 16.7 |
| 2003 | 16.1 |
| 2004 | 15.9 |
| 2005 | 15.7 |
| 2006 | 15.3 |
| 2007 | 16.0 |

The break-down by ethnicity at a national level in 2006 is as follows (the last complete calendar year for which these data are available).

*Proportion of children living in working age workless households in GB*

| *Ethnic group* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| White | 13.8 |
| Mixed: White and Black Caribbean | 34.2 |
| Mixed: White and Black African | 15.6 |
| Mixed: White and Asian | 13.8 |
| Mixed: Other | 20.4 |
| Indian | 6.8 |
| Pakistani | 25.4 |
| Bangladeshi | 42.1 |
| Other Asian | 15.8 |
| Black Caribbean | 34.9 |
| Black African | 26.4 |
| Other Black | 12.8 |
| Chinese | 4.1 |
| Other | 39.5 |
| GB | 15.5 |

[1] Percentage of children aged under 16 in a working-age household where no adult works. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age (a woman aged between 16 and 59 or a man aged between 16 and 64). Workless individuals are those who are either unemployed (International Labour Organisation definition) or economically inactive (that is, not in employment).

In line with the 2006 Eurostat directive, the Labour Force Survey has shifted away from the use of seasonal data (spring) and instead refers to second quarter (Q2) figures, in order to assess the progress of the Children in Workless Households target. The Q2 data covers the months April to June whereas the previous spring datasets covered the months March to May. Due to the slight difference in the time periods covered by the new datasets there are marginal differences between the seasonal and calendar data. Accordingly, the Labour Force Survey figures quoted may differ from previous versions.

*Note:*

Figures not adjusted for households with unknown economic activity.

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey, Spring 2006

### Voluntary Schools

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in England secured voluntary aided status for the first time within the last five years; [173596]

(2) what criteria he uses to assess applications for new voluntary aided schools. [173597]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* Since January 2003, 85 new voluntary aided schools have been established. During the same period, 49 maintained schools changed category to become voluntary aided schools.

Proposals to establish new schools, or change category to become voluntary aided, are decided under local decision-making arrangements. Prior to 25 May this year, decisions were taken by the local School Organisation Committee or schools adjudicator. Under the current arrangements, the local authority is the decision maker in most cases, except for proposals for a new school where the local authority is the proposer or has a role in the trust of a proposed trust school. An appeal to the schools adjudicator can be made in specific cases. Decision makers must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State, which sets out the factors that must be considered when deciding proposals. For proposals to establish a new school this includes: the impact of standards and levels of diversity; the need for school places; the demand for the particular type of education the new school will offer; the contribution to community cohesion and a range of other factors.

### Voluntary Schools: Religion

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many voluntary aided schools there are whose trustees are faith groups, broken down by faith. [173595]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The available information is shown in the table.

The table shows the religious character of voluntary aided schools. The religious character of the trust is the same as that of the school.

*Maintained primary and secondary schools*[1]*: number of voluntary aided schools by their religious character—January 2007 England*

| | *Maintained primary schools* | *Maintained secondary schools* |
|---|---|---|
| No Religious Character | 15 | 40 |
| Church of England | 1,956 | 137 |
| Roman Catholic | 1,696 | 341 |
| Methodist | 2 | 0 |
| Other Christian Faith[2] | 28 | 22 |
| Jewish | 28 | 9 |
| Muslim | 4 | 3 |
| Sikh | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 3,731 | 554 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes schools of mixed denomination or other Christian beliefs.

*Source:*

School Census and Edubase

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Deborah Mattinson

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Deborah Mattinson has *(a)* a desk, *(b)* a telephone, *(c)* office facilities and *(d)* administrative support provided in the Cabinet Office. [172750]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) today.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining *(a)* the Cabinet Office's and its agencies' corporate identity and *(b)* the Office of the Prime Minister's corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of (i) producing and (ii) complying with such guidelines. [170240]

**Gillian Merron:** I have placed in the Library copies of the corporate guidelines for the Cabinet Office, the Office of the Third Sector and the Social Exclusion Task Force. There are no corporate identity guidelines for the Office of Prime Minister.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Government facilities have been provided to *(a)* Bob Shrum, *(b)* Stan Greenberg and *(c)* Deborah Mattinson since 27 June. [164726]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1075-76W. I can also confirm that Mr. Stan Greenberg and Ms Deborah Mattinson have not been provided with the use of Government facilities in the Cabinet Office or No. 10 Downing street.

### Voluntary Organisations: Community Development

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the progress of implementation of the conclusions of the 2004 voluntary and community sector in service delivery. [173030]

**Phil Hope:** The Third Sector Review report was published on 24 July 2007. It sets out the Government's vision for the next 10 years and how it will invest over £515 million over 2008 to 2011 in supporting an environment for the third sector to thrive.

It was informed by the largest consultation the Government has held with the sector, including over 90 consultation events, designed to reach the diversity of third sector organisations across the country.

The investment of £515 million includes developing a sector skills strategy; investing £117 million in youth volunteering through the youth-led charity v, including £75 million for vinvolved, the national youth volunteering programme; and creating a grass root grants programme that will allow front-line community organisations to access funding they need.

As part of the development of the sector skills strategy, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills announced the extension of the Train to Gain skills programme to volunteers.

Other key investments include

£88 million for Capacitybuilders,

£65 million for Futurebuilders,

£10 million for community anchors,

£5 million for a new research centre.

## JUSTICE

### Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department on international flights since it was established. [174361]

**Mr. Hanson:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the anticipated efficiency saving in his Department is for each of the next three financial years; [174329]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that his Department makes three per cent. value for money savings in each of the next three financial years; [174330]

(3) on what basis it is anticipated that his Department can make efficiency savings in the next three financial years. [174333]

**Mr. Hanson:** In line with the comprehensive spending review settlement announced on 9 October, the Ministry of Justice will deliver value for money cash releasing savings of at least 3 per cent. per annum over the next three years.

The Ministry of Justice value for money delivery agreement for comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07) to be published shortly will provide details of how these savings will be delivered.

### Departmental Members' Interest

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the declaration of interest made to the Permanent Secretary by the former Minister of State on 13 September 2007. [170277]

**Mr. Straw:** Information was provided to the Permanent Secretary in confidence solely for the purpose that he could advise my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Camberwell and Peckham (Ms Harman) on any potential conflicts of interest arising from donations made to her deputy leadership campaign in relation to her role as Minister of State at the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

A list of donations can be found on the Electoral Commission website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171325]

**Maria Eagle:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

The costs incurred by the Ministry of Justice since its creation on 9 May 2007 have been £193.40.

### Detention Centres: Children

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children under 16 are being detained in *(a)* prison awaiting trial and *(b)* an immigration detention centre awaiting a decision on their asylum status. [174157]

**Mr. Hanson:** At the end of October 2007, there were 35 under 16-year-olds held on untried remand in prison establishments in England and Wales.

Information on the number of people under the age of 16 being detained in an immigration detention centre awaiting a decision on their asylum status is not available. It is not possible to say which stage of the asylum process people are at when they are detained. The decision to detain is made on a case-by-case basis and may be appropriate in one or more of the following circumstances: to effect removal; to establish a person's identity and claim; where a person presents a risk of abscond or where the application is capable of being considered quickly.

The aforementioned figure was drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, can be subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Fixed Penalty Notices

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of each category of fixed penalty notices have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* paid in each month since their introduction in each police force area. [172865]

**Maria Eagle:** Of the categories of fixed penalty notices collected by my Department, information is available for the following:

Data on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued and paid by police force area for each month from 2004 to 2006 are provided in tables, which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The PND Scheme began in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004.

Motoring offences fixed penalty notices data are submitted to my Department on a calendar year basis from police forces. The data does not contain a month by month breakdown.

Available annual information on motoring fixed penalty notices can be found in the Ministry of Justice Statistical publication "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables"—tables 20(a) to 20(c) refer. Copies of the publication are available in the Libraries of the House. The publication going back to 1980 can be accessed from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/motoringoffences.htm

Data are collected on the disposal (i.e. paid, fine registration certificate issued etc.) and published in the following year's annual volume covering motoring offences.

### Legal Aid Fund

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the anticipated change in budget to 2010-11 is for the Legal Aid Fund. [174332]

**Maria Eagle:** The annual cost of legal aid is expected to be approximately £2 billion in each of the years until 2010-11, broadly its current level.

### Prison Service

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the performance of each *(a)* area office within HM Prison Service and *(b)* division within HM Prison Service headquarters in meeting correspondence management targets for the year ended March 2007; and if he will make a statement. [175198]

**Maria Eagle:** This information is not available for individual HQ groups and area offices. In 2006-07, reported data shows that 98 per cent. of public correspondence received by HM Prison Service area offices and HQ groups was responded to within the deadline of 20 working days.

### Prison Service: Pay

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payment scale is used to determine the remuneration of the previous Area Manager for London in his role of supporting the completion of the investigation by Ron Tasker; and if he will make a statement. [175194]

**Maria Eagle:** Mr. Keith Munns, the previous area manager for London, was asked to undertake a number of continuing duties following his retirement in March this year. These included some further work on the Tasker investigation. Rates of remuneration in such circumstances are negotiated individually and reflect the level of the work involved. As Mr. Munns was undertaking the same work that he would previously have been completing as an area manager his daily rate of pay was based on senior civil service pay.

### Prisoners: Drugs

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people sentenced for drug related offences who were placed on a treatment programme *(a)* successfully completed the course, *(b)* remained drugs free for 12 months after completing the course and *(c)* went on to commit further offences in the latest period for which figures are available. [174735]

**Mr. Hanson:** This information is not available in the form requested. The total numbers completing drug treatment are given in the following table. Research suggests that those completing a drug treatment and testing order (now the drug rehabilitation requirement) have significantly lower reconviction rates (33 per cent.) than those who do not (91 per cent.). Research also suggests that prison drug treatment can reduce re-offending by around 10 per cent.

| *2006-07* | | *Number*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Probation[2] | Drug rehabilitation requirement | 5,940 |
| Prisons[2] | Intensive rehabilitation programmes | 8,350 |

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10

[2] Treatment options for which completion figures are available.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people sentenced for drug related offences were subsequently placed on a treatment programme for their *(a)* physical needs and *(b)* psychological needs in the latest period for which figures are available. [174736]

**Mr. Hanson:** This is the only format for the information requested. The total numbers engaged in drug treatment are given in the following table.

| *2006-07* | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| Probation | Drug rehabilitation requirement | 15,798 |
| Prison[1] | Clinical interventions | 51,520 |
| | CARATs[2, 3] assessments | 77,855 |
| | Intensive rehabilitation programme entrants | 11,150 |

[1] Individuals engage in more than one type of treatment.

[2] Counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare.

[3] Including juvenile substance misuse services.

### Prisoners: Education

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what statutory requirement exists for the prison service to offer throughcare programmes, including education and training for prisoners on short-term sentences. [175470]

**Maria Eagle:** Rule 32 of the Prison Rules 1999 and rules 37 to 42 inclusive of the Young Offender Institution Rules 2000 place requirements on prisons to provide education and training opportunities for prisoners. These are general duties which apply to all prisoners, and there are no specific statutory requirements for prisoners serving short sentences. The rules are available in the Library of the House.

### Prisoners: Employment

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were employed in prison workshops in 2006-07. [175471]

**Maria Eagle:** The Prison Service does not keep central records of the cumulative number of prisoners employed in prison workshops but instead records the average weekly number of prisoners involved in workshops. Prison industry workshops, including industrial laundries, account for approximately 10,000 work places. There are also a number of prison workshops employing some 800 prisoners engaged in tasks such as repairing wheelchairs and bicycles and delivering Braille services.

### Prisoners: Females

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what percentage of women prisoners were serving sentences for *(a)* serious, *(b)* violent and *(c)* drug-related offences in each of the last five years; and what percentage of those in prison for drug-related offences have a drug addiction in each year; [174257]

(2) what percentage of women prisoners convicted of serious offences were in prison for drugs-related offences in each of the last five years; and of these what percentage had a drug addiction. [174258]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the total number of sentenced women prisoners and the proportion of these for (a) serious and violent and (b) drug offences, in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June 2002-06. Serious and violent offences are defined as violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery.

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total sentenced population | 3,336 | 3,474 | 3,449 | 3,476 | 3,506 |
| Violence against the person (Percentage) | 16 | 15 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Sexual offences (Percentage) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Robbery (Percentage) | 9 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 |
| Total serious and violent offences (Percentage) | 26 | 27 | 30 | 29 | 29 |
| Drug offences (Percentage) | 39 | 39 | 36 | 36 | 33 |

These figures are taken from table 8.2 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, which has recently been published at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm These numbers relate to specific drug offences only (including the possession and supply of drugs) and not to other offences (such as those involving acquisitive crime) which may be related to drug issues of the offender.

Data are not held centrally on the number of prisoners with a drug addiction and are not routinely collected in the format requested.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisoners: Pay

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average pay was for prisoners in *(a)* education and *(b)* work programmes in 2006-07. [175469]

**Mr. Hanson:** A survey on prisoners' pay which was carried out during April/May 2007 indicated that the average pay for prisoners was approximately.

| | *£ per week* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Education | 9.08 |
| *(b)* Work | 9.60 |

### Prisons

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to improve the level and consistency of provision of purposeful activity in prisons. [174514]

**Mr. Hanson:** The standard core day to be introduced from April 2008 will provide a greater level of consistency and certainty to the time prisoners spend undertaking purposeful activity.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons pay the same wages for participation in education and in work programmes. [175468]

**Mr. Hanson:** This information is not collated centrally however to establish pay rates in prisons a survey was carried out during April/May 2007 and this indicated that 19 establishments pay equal wages for participation in education and work.

### Probation Service

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken to assist with the demand on the work of probation services caused by prisoners being released early. [175270]

**Mr. Hanson:** Probation boards have received £300,000 in 2007-08 for the additional work arising from the End of Custody Licence scheme. The level of resources needed will be kept under review.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what was spent on local management for the Probation Service in England and Wales for each financial year since 1997-98. [175379]

**Mr. Hanson:** Expenditure on local management is not separately reported by probation boards and it would be a disproportionate cost to collect this back to 1997-98.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what was spent on approved premises for the Probation Service in England and Wales for each financial year since 1997-98. [175382]

**Maria Eagle:** The following data set out what has been spent in total on the Approved Premises estate in each of the last five years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 52,219,391 |
| 2003-04 | 61,998,242 |
| 2004-05 | 63,567,929 |
| 2005-06 | 73,358,001 |
| 2006-07 | 84,599,882 |
| Total | 335,743,445 |

Data prior to this period are not held by the Ministry of Justice or the National Offender Management Service.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what was spent on public protection for the Probation Service in England and Wales for each financial year since 1997-98. [175383]

**Mr. Hanson:** Expenditure on public protection is not identified as a separate component of Probation Boards' financial reports and it would be a disproportionate cost to separately identify it back to 1997-98.

Public protection is intrinsic to many aspects of probation work and as such the cost cannot be separately identified.

### Probation Service: Staff

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of staff employed by the Probation Service in England and Wales were in daily direct contact with offenders in each of the last 10 years. [173769]

**Maria Eagle:** All probation staff in the NPS are employed by the relevant probation board who are responsible for managing work load allocation. It is therefore not possible to provide information at this level. Information is however collected on the number of staff employed in offender management roles.

The following table shows the number of staff working in an offender management role from 2003 onwards. Data prior to 2003 were collated by a different source and was incomplete in some categories. It is therefore not directly comparable with the figures collected since that time.

| *Role* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Offender management role | 17,551.20 | 17,771.71 | 18,6[illegible]0.41 | 19,155.90 | 18,706.47 |
| Percentage | 91.79 | 91.03 | [illegible]0.69 | 89.81 | 89.82 |

| *Role* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other roles | 1,570.60 | 1,751.27 | 1,911.65 | 2,173.08 | 2,120.86 |
| Percentage | 8.21 | 8.97 | 9.31 | 10.19 | 10.18 |
| | | | | | |
| Total | 19,121.80 | 19,522.98 | 20,542.06 | 21,328.98 | 20,827.33 |
| Percentage | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

## Probation Service: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government have taken to improve the Probation Service in the West Midlands. [175269]

**Maria Eagle:** West Midlands probation area is receiving additional oversight from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Performance Improvement Unit and this will continue until there is evidence of a sustained improvement.

With guidance from NOMS, the management of West Midlands probation area have designed a comprehensive 'Solutions Programme' focused on lifting performance. The aim of the strategy is for West Midlands probation area to achieve the required standards of performance and organisational capability.

The most recent performance data give an early indication of improvement.

## Young Offender Institutions

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what injuries were sustained by boys held in Werrington Young Offender Institution during physical control and restraint in each month in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; [175253]

(2) what injuries were sustained by boys held in Wetherby Young Offender Institution during control and restraint in each month in (a) 2006 and (b) 2007. [175254]

**Maria Eagle:** The information for Werrington and Wetherby is set out in the following table. It should be noted that the injuries set out in the table were subsequent to fights between young people, and that it is likely that a number of the injuries were sustained in the fights rather than during restraint. The incidents are recorded nonetheless.

| | *Werrington* | *Wetherby* |
|---|---|---|
| *2006* | | |
| January | Nose bleed | Sprained wrist, reddening to wrists x4, grazing to arms x3 |
| February | Split lip, grazes, bruising | Reddening to wrists x4, grazing to arms x3 |
| March | Minor bruising x3, nose bleed, cut to forehead | Fractured wrist, sprained wrist, reddening to wrists x2, grazing to arms grazing to face x2 |
| April | Marks to face and neck | Reddening to wrists x6, grazing to arms |
| May | Swelling to jaw | Reddening to wrists x5, grazing to arms, grazing to legs, grazing to face |
| June | Swelling to hand x2, nose bleed, graze to knee | Reddening to wrists x3 |
| July | Pain in wrist | Sprained wrist, reddening to wrists x6, grazing to legs |
| August | Sore wrist x2, superficial cuts | Reddening to wrists x4, grazing to arms x3 |
| September | 0 | Sprained wrist, reddening to wrists x9, grazing to arms, grazing to legs, grazing to face |
| October | Tender thumb | Fractured wrist, reddening to wrists x5 |
| November | Abrasions, swelling to ear | Sprained wrist, reddening to wrists x4, bruised finger |
| December | Grazes to side of face | Reddening to wrists, grazing to arms, grazing to legs, grazing to face |
| *2007* | | |
| January | Broken arm | Reddening to wrists x4 |
| February | Pain in hand, injury to little finger | Sprained wrist, reddening to wrists x2 |
| March | 0 | Fractured wrist, reddening to wrists, grazing to face x2, grazing to arms, grazing to legs |
| April | Grazed knuckles, injury to middle finger | Reddening to wrists x3 |
| May | Carpet burn | Reddening to wrists |
| June | Carpet burn | Reddening to wrists x3, grazing to face |
| July | Graze to elbow | Reddening to wrists x4 |
| August | Scratches to face, loss of consciousness, fractured scaphoid | Reddening to wrists x4, grazing to face, grazing to arms |
| September | 0 | Reddening to wrists x6 |
| October | Scratch to cheek | Head injury, reddening to wrists x4, graze to head, grazing to arms |
| November | Small laceration to inner lip, slight scratch to hand | Reddening to wrists x2 |

## SCOTLAND

### Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme

**Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [173083]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office is included in the Ministry of Justice's environmental management programme which includes implementing the Government's UK Sustainable Action Plan, published on 5 March 2007.

### Council Tax

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether the equivalent cash funding paid by the UK Government to Scotland for council tax benefit will continue to be paid to the Scottish Executive in the event of a local income tax replacing council tax in Scotland. [173478]

**David Cairns:** Council tax benefit is a reserved matter for the UK Government. The Scottish Executive has yet to be set out any plans for any local income tax in Scotland, and as such, we cannot comment on any hypothetical situation.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his office in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172233]

(2) how many miles he and other Ministers in his Office travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172572]

**David Cairns:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government carbon offsetting fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechantge/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of inquiries received by his Office from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167373]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the annual report on Departments' and agencies' handling of correspondence from MPs and Peers which was published by written ministerial statement on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS.

Information for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the calendar year.

Information on performance on handling correspondence from the public is not held in the format requested.

### Departmental Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173815]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office, with a complement of 55, is part of the Ministry of Justice for these purposes. The Office has no staff dedicated to these functions.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174959]

**David Cairns:** One member of staff in the parliamentary branch covers all aspects of Scotland Office parliamentary activity, as well as assisting with private office duties, but does not, in the main, deal with correspondence.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172433]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office endeavours to purchase goods and services under contracts held by larger Departments, such as the Scottish Executive and the Ministry of Justice. Where this is not possible, the office seeks to follow the model terms provided by the Office of Government Commerce which says that the contractor shall not assign, sub-contract or in any other way dispose of the contract or any part of it without the contracting authority's prior approval.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place a copy of the job descriptions of his special advisers in the Library. [172306]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November, *Official Report*, column 147WS.

### Sustainable Development

**Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system for *(a)* its whole estate or *(b)* some of its buildings. [172770]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office is included in the Ministry of Justice's environmental management programme which includes implementing the Government's UK Sustainable Action Plan, published on 5 March 2007.

**Ms. Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) whether his Department met the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate target to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007; [172771]

(2) whether his Department is on course to meet the commitment in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [172772]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office is included in the Ministry of Justice's environmental management programme.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 18 December 2007*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Audit Commission: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Audit Commission has to change audit fees charged to local authorities. [174545]

**John Healey:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission. I will ask the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member and arrange for the letter to be published in the *Official Report*.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 18 December 2007:*

Your parliamentary question on what plans the Audit Commission has to change audit fees charged to local authorities has been passed to me for reply.

We issued consultation documents setting out the Commission's proposed scales of audit and inspection fees for 2008-09 and the indicative fee proposals for 2009-10 and 2010-11 to all audited bodies and other stakeholders on 30 November 2007. A copy of the consultation document for local authorities is attached. The consultation will close on 11 January 2008, and the Audit Commission Board will be asked to approve the 2008-09 work programme and fee scales at its meeting in March 2008.

In summary, audit fees will increase from 2008-09 onwards, reflecting a number of changes that will directly increase the amount of work that auditors will need to do, and therefore the costs of the audit. Some of these are externally driven, such as the Government's requirement that the public sector adopts International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and the international accountancy profession's tightening of audit standards.

However, we have also expanded the scope of auditors' use of resources assessments, which will form a key part of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) framework, to include commissioning and sustainable procurement, and strengthened the focus on efficiency, in line with the Government's expectations. The extra work is likely to increase audit fees. But auditors will look to substitute this additional work for existing audit work wherever possible. Any increases in audit fees will be more than offset by an overall reduction in the total costs of regulation over the next three years, as CAA replaces the current Comprehensive Performance Assessment

We are also able to reduce the impact by a rigorous programme of efficiency savings, which will release 3 per cent. savings annually over the next three years. The Commission will continue to look for other opportunities to reduce the cost of our work to local authorities.

I trust that this information is helpful.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Bellwin Scheme

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information local authorities are required to submit to her Department to claim compensation for flooding under the Bellwin scheme; and if she will place in the Library copies of *(a)* the application form for and *(b)* guidance on such claims. [174543]

**John Healey:** As with the established arrangements for the Bellwin scheme, authorities must submit a list of the items on which they have incurred expenditure eligible for grant. When submitting their final claim, they must also provide evidence of spending on those items.

I have placed copies of the application forms and guidance notes in the Library of the House.

### Buildings: Energy

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the UK will meet the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive in full. [166817]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive requires member states to bring into force national laws, regulations and administrative provisions to comply with the directive by 4 January 2006.

There is a three-year derogation period within the directive to apply fully the provisions for energy certificates and plant inspections commensurate with the availability of accredited and suitably qualified assessors.

In England and Wales, changes made to the building regulations in April 2006 implemented the technical parts of the directive.

Energy performance certificates (EPCs) on the marketed sales of dwellings have already been introduced as part of home information packs.

We want to ensure a smooth implementation of EPCs for other types of buildings. Lessons learnt from the introduction of EPCs already show that a phased approach has worked well for industry and consumers. That is why we think it is right that the same approach should be adopted for the roll-out to other sectors, starting from April.

EPCs on construction of new dwellings will start on 6 April 2008

EPCs on construction, sale or rent of buildings other than dwellings over 10,000m$^2$ from 6 April 2008

EPCs on construction, sale or rent of buildings other than dwellings over 2,500m$^2$ from 1 July 2008

EPCs on construction, sale or rent of all other non-dwellings from 1 October 2008

EPCs on all other sales and new rentals of dwellings from 1 October 2008

Display energy certificates on larger public buildings will be required by 1 October 2008.

Ministers in Scotland and Northern Ireland are responsible for implementation of the directive in their regions.

### Business: Non-Domestic Rates

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency plans to use an automated valuation model for the 2010 business rates revaluation. [174365]

**John Healey:** The VOA is investigating the use of outputs from the use of multiple regression analysis techniques as a tool to assist the Agency's professional valuers when making judgments about appropriate value levels for the next revaluation of non-domestic property in 2010.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the joint Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors/Valuation Office Agency guidance note on contractors' basis valuations. [174368]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 17 December 2007 (question 173317).

### Charities: Islam

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of mosques and madrassahs are registered as charities; what work the Charity Commission's Social Cohesion Unit has undertaken in promoting good governance at mosques; how many people the unit employs; and on what the £1.2 million allocated by her Department on this matter has been spent. [173940]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I have asked the chief executive of the Charity Commission to write to the hon. Member and I will arrange for the letter to be published in the *Official Report*.

### Community Development

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to consult communities on the effects of the Government's *(a)* community and *(b)* counter-terrorism policies on community cohesion; and if she will make a statement. [173447]

**Mr. Dhanda:** My Department plans to consult shortly on two community-related policies laid out in the "Action Plan for Community Empowerment". Firstly whether there should be a statutory duty on local authorities to respond to petitions which pass some threshold of support and secondly the way in which the Secretary of State's powers in the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act to exclude matters from the scope of Councillors Calls for Action (CCfA) should be applied.

My Department also plan to consult on a consultation document on inter faith dialogue and social action on 17 December. This follows the Commission on Integration and Cohesion's report, in which we envisage the final strategy being published in late spring.

My Department intend to make a written statement to Parliament on all of the consultations.

Counter-terrorism policy is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary.

### Community Relations: Religion

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, if she will publish the work of the Economic Research Council, Kings College and the Royal Society for Arts on dealing with radicalisation both at home and abroad announced by the Prime Minister. [168397]

**Mr. Dhanda:** This is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband).

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) by what criteria the £45 million available to local authorities to help combat violent extremism announced in her Department's press release of 31 October 2007 will be allocated to local authorities; and how the effectiveness of those grants will be assessed; [173929]

(2) how much of the £45 million available to local authorities to help combat violent extremism announced in her Department's press release of 31 October 2007 will be allocated for *(a)* each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 and *(b)* each type of project; [173930]

(3) how she plans to evaluate the effectiveness of grants from the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder fund. [173969]

**Mr. Dhanda:** On 31 October 2007, the Secretary of State announced an additional £45 million to go direct to local partnerships for work to prevent violent extremism over the next three years. Eligibility and distribution criteria for the funding are being developed and will be made public in due course.

A public consultation is currently under way on the national indicator set for local government, with indicator number 35 (Building resilience to violent extremism) focused on measuring local authority work on this agenda. These measures will be complemented by the work of the Audit Commission and other inspection bodies through the comprehensive area assessment.

For the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund in 2007-08, reporting against spend will happen twice yearly within the overall statement of grant usage process. Local authorities will also report formally against the delivery of project outcomes twice yearly through the local area agreement review process.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) by what criteria the £25 million for national schemes to support communities in tackling violent extremism announced in her Department's press release of 31 October 2007 will be allocated; and who will allocate it; [173937]

(2) how much of the £25 million for the national scheme to support communities tackling violent extremism announced in her Department's press release on 31 October 2007 will be allocated *(a)* in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 and *(b)* to each type of project; [173944]

(3) how she plans to assess the effectiveness of the £25 million expenditure on national schemes to support communities in tackling violent extremism announced in her Department's press release of 31 October 2007. [173945]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In her speech on 31 October 2007 the Secretary of State announced that over £25 million would be invested in national schemes to directly support communities in the comprehensive spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11. The Department is working with a range of partners to develop detail expenditure plan over the three year period and will make details of the grant funds available in due course.

The £25 million for national projects will be allocated to a range of work which will include:

Equipping faith leaders with the skills and understanding required to lead communities, building their capacity to engage with young people on the challenges they face, including extremism. For example, ensuring imams can communicate more effectively with young people;

Support communities to broaden the provision of citizenship education in mosque schools, equipping young people themselves with the understanding and arguments to reject extremists' messages;

Developing new minimum standards for public institutions (e.g. prisons, universities) engaging imams working with young or vulnerable people;

Supporting the Charity Commission's work to improve governance standards in faith institutions, including mosques;

Increase support and engagement to Muslim women and young people.

Evaluation processes will be developed for each project as an integral part of the planning process.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority forums on tackling extremism and Islamophobia have been held; which local authorities organised them; when each forum met; and who attended each. [173938]

**Mr. Dhanda:** We are aware of 13 forums on extremism and Islamophobia currently in existence, in:

Blackburn
Bristol
Craven
Derby
Dudley
High Wycombe
Kirklees
Leicester
Pendle
Peterborough
Reading
Redbridge
Swansea

Forums are community lead and community run, though the local authorities play an important role in forums.

Because these forums are locally run (and in most cases directly funded by the local authority) Communities and Local Government do not keep details of those who attended or the dates of all meetings.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the progress made by the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board in the five core areas highlighted in the Preventing Violent Extremism report. [173939]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) steering group launched its draft constitution and set of core standards for consultation on the 29 November 2007. The document includes standards related to the five core areas set out in the Preventing Violent Extremism Action Plan: the accreditation of imams; the development of leadership skills for imams and mosque officials; progress in the inclusion of young people and women; improvement in the governance of mosques and; supporting mosques to contribute to the community cohesion and to tackling extremism. The consultation will last until mid-January 2008. MINAB is expecting to publish a revised document in spring 2008 and will continue to support mosques to meet the core standards.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how she plans to distribute the £250,000 per annum aimed at helping young people to tackle violent extremism announced in her speech to the Preventing Extremism Conference on 31 October; and how the effectiveness of this funding will be assessed; [173953]

(2) when she plans to host the youth conference on tackling extremism mentioned in her speech of 31 October to the Preventing Extremism Conference; and whom she plans to invite to the conference. [173954]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In her speech on 31 October 2007 the Secretary of State announced that she would provide at least £250,000 a year for the next three years to support projects which will benefit young people, and highlighted the importance of enabling young people to inform and drive this work. The Secretary of State has already identified a range of possible priorities for this funding including: peer mentoring; youth support networks; leadership programmes; arts and culture; and media and sport. We will open discussions with youth organisations and young people in order to involve them in developing funding priorities and processes which reflect their perceptions of the issue of violent extremism. Processes to assess the effectiveness of the funding will be developed as part of the work to develop funding plans and specific proposals.

Plans for the youth conference are being taken forward in partnership with DCSF and other Government Departments. The date and invitation lists for the conference have not yet been finalised.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in the development of the new fully-accredited Continuous Professional Development Programme for Faith Leaders referred to in the Preventing Violent Extremism report. [173957]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Continuous Professional Development Programme for Faith Leaders is in its pilot stage, with three pilots already launched and a further two sites expected to launch in early 2008.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how she plans to evaluate the effectiveness of expenditure under the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund. [173971]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Each piece of work funded by the Preventing Violent Extremism: Community Leadership Fund is assessed individually according to the proposed measures for effectiveness of the specific activities and objectives of each project.

### Council Housing: Finance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the national level of housing revenue account subsidy was in each year since 1990; and what it is projected to be in each of the next 15 years, using the same assumptions which have been made for the housing revenue account pilot opt-outs. [165558]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** A table showing the national level of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy from 1995-96 to 2005-06 (the last year for which audited data is available) is as follows.

The table shows the value of the 'bricks and mortar' element of HRA subsidy. Prior to 2004-05, HRA subsidy also contained a rent rebate element. This is omitted from the table to ensure consistency with post 2004-05 data. Prior to 2004-05, surpluses in the 'bricks and mortar' element were applied to the cost of rent rebates for local authorities.

| | *HRA subsidy (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 390,050,431 |
| 1996-97 | 563,028,455 |
| 1997-98 | 668,307,497 |
| 1998-99 | 869,992,311 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,040,869,030 |
| 2000-01 | 1,123,786,228 |
| 2001-02 | 351,105,009 |
| 2002-03 | 252,059,142 |
| 2003-04 | 191,153,240 |
| 2004-05 | 77,994,764 |
| 2005-06 | 249,427,865 |

Pre 1995-96 data is available only at disproportionate cost.

As part of the self financing modelling exercise some broad forecasts of future HRA subsidy entitlement were generated at a national level. These forecasts were based upon a number of assumptions about factors such as the number of dwellings in the HRA subsidy system, interest rates and rates of inflation. The forecasts are highly sensitive to changes in any of these assumptions. It is based upon the 2007-08 HRA subsidy system.

The forecast subsidies generated were as follows:

| | *HRA subsidy (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | -194 |
| 2009-10 | -216 |
| 2010-11 | -303 |
| 2011-12 | -421 |
| 2012-13 | -424 |
| 2013-14 | -376 |
| 2014-15 | -398 |
| 2015-16 | -434 |
| 2016-17 | -476 |
| 2017-18 | -543 |
| 2018-19 | -611 |
| 2019-20 | -680 |
| 2020-21 | -750 |
| 2021-22 | -822 |
| 2022-23 | -894 |

### Council Housing: Property Transfer

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council-owned properties were transferred to housing associations via stock transfer in England in each year since 1997-98. [171529]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows how many dwellings have been transferred to registered social landlords via stock transfer from 1997-98 to date.

*Dwellings Transferred to Registered Social Landlords via LSVT since 1997-98*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 32,982 |
| 1998-99 | 73,900 |
| 1999-2000 | 97,385 |
| 2000-01 | 134,219 |
| 2001-02 | 35,390 |
| 2002-03 | 167,270 |
| 2003-04 | 38,635 |
| 2004-05 | 101,511 |
| 2005-06 | 53,505 |
| 2006-07 | 69,069 |
| 2007 to date | 38,576 |
| Total | 842,442 |

### Council Tax: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason Best Value Performance Indicator 9, on council tax collection rates, is not included in the National Indicator set. [171595]

**John Healey:** The national indicators have been derived from public service agreements (PSAs) and the Departments' strategic objectives (DSOs) and agreed across Government through the 2007 comprehensive spending review. The set provides clarity about the balance between national and local priorities. There are many services and activities undertaken by local government, alone or in partnership, which are not directly reflected in the set but which will continue to be important to local areas and the people they serve as well as to business. Data on CT collection rates is also collected, and will continue to be collected, through final quarterly return of council taxes and non-domestic rates (QRC4) returns submitted by all billing authorities in England.

### Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months. [171253]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1648-49W and to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 843-44W.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by her Department on international flights in each year since it was established. [174352]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many square metres of *(a)* total and *(b)* vacant space is recorded on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service database for (i) her Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the most recent period for which figures are available. [174456]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The total amount of space recorded on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (EPIMS) database for Communities and Local Government is 79,659 $m^2$. This figure includes approximately 10,000 $m^2$ of non-office space. The vacant space recorded is 289 $m^2$.

Information for the agencies is:

| | *Total $m^2$* | *Vacant space* |
|---|---|---|
| Fire Service College | [1]37,903 | 0 |
| Planning Inspectorate | 13,150 | 0 |
| Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre | [1]16,560 | 0 |

[1] This includes non-office space.

This answer does not include land or buildings occupied by Government Offices, which carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in her Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate she has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172230]

(2) how many miles she and other Ministers in her Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate she has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172526]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Since 1999 the Government have published, a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

### Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which publications, and on what websites, her Department publishes invitations to tender. [174538]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities publish invitations to tender on the procurement portal of its own website. The Department also uses the websites of the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions, the Official Journal of the Europe Union and Supply2.gov.uk. Where appropriate Communities also publish invitations to tender in relevant trade journals.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by her Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external sources in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173690]

**Mr. Dhanda:** No confirmed breaches of personal data security in Communities and Local Government or its predecessor Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have been brought to our attention over the past five years. There has been correspondence with members of the public who claim that we have disclosed their personal data without their knowledge or consent, but in all cases we have been able to confirm that such disclosure was in order to pursue their complaints/inquiries, and so not in contravention of the data protection legislation.

## Departmental Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by her Department for this purpose. [173846][1]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In 2004-2007, the Equality and Diversity Unit (EDU) recorded staff costs of £1,951,549 and non-pay spend of £989,022. The EDU was responsible for internal equality policy delivery.

In July 2007, the EDU transferred to the Race Equality Unit taking seven posts, a pay budget of £319,000 and a non-pay budget of £16,000. The newly formed Race Equality and Diversity Division has a forecast outturn in 2007-2008 of £1,951,549 pay costs (average 34.8 FTE posts) and £989,202 non-pay costs. Due to machinery of Government changes it is difficult for the Department to provide more detail.

One HEO maintained the workforce equalities taskforce at a cost of £21,286, from July 2006 until the creation of the workforce equalities team in October 2006. These units were established to mainstream equality and diversity within Communities. The workforce equalities team now comprises two HEOs, one full-time and one working 32 hours per week. The Grade 7 team leader post is currently vacant, but assuming the post is filled on a full-time basis the costs for the team would total £74,559 annually.

The workforce equalities team has an annual allocation of £20,000, of which £8,000 is allocated to the Department's various staff networks. This leaves £12,000 to be spent directly on mainstreaming equality and diversity within Communities.

Like other Government Departments and as part of its commitment to ensuring good practice, Communities also pays for membership of various organisations for benchmarking purposes (e.g. Stonewall, Employers Forum on Disability) costing approximately £13,100 annually.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each civil service grade are employed by her Department. [172731]

**Hazel Blears:** The latest statistics on the number of men and women by grade in The Department for Communities and local Government are published by The Office for National Statistics in their publication 2006 Civil Service Statistics. Table H of the publication presents permanent employees by Department, responsibility level, ethnic origin and gender.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/CivilService2006TablesandCharts.xls

## Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff work in her Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174964]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Five staff work in the Department's parliamentary branch and approximately 50 per cent. of their time is spent on dealing with parliamentary questions. The branch is not responsible for dealing with correspondence from hon. Members and peers.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of her Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171411]

**Mr. Dhanda:** On 31 October 2007, the number and proportion of staff in each salary band were as shown in the following table.

| *Salary band* | *Number of staff (full-time equivalent)* | *Proportion of staff (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Industrial bands | 14 | 1 |
| Band 1 | 15 | 1 |
| Band 2 | 265 | 12 |
| Band 3 | 405 | 18 |
| Band 4 | 558 | 24 |
| Band 5 | 312 | 14 |
| Band 6 | 481 | 21 |
| Band 7 | 108 | 5 |
| SCS Pay Band 1 | 101 | 4 |
| SCS Pay Band 1A | 3 | 0 |
| SCS Pay Band 2 | 22 | 1 |
| SCS Pay Band 3 | 7 | 0 |
| Permanent Secretary | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 2,291 | 100 |

The title and role of each position within the Department can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are three bonus schemes in operation in the Department at present.

*1. The senior civil service (SCS) bonus scheme*

SCS pay arrangements are not delegated to Departments but set within a framework prescribed by the Cabinet Office. In line with Cabinet Office guidance, annual bonuses primarily reward delivery of agreed personal business objectives or targets. The bonuses are not pensionable or consolidated into basic salary.

*2. Annual Performance Awards*

Staff below the SCS receiving an overall 'exceeded' marking in their performance reports receive a one-off lump sum that is not pensionable or consolidated into basic salary. For the 2005-06 pay award the amounts varied from £350 to £1,200.

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[1] *[Official Report, 18 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 1MC.]*

*3. Special bonus scheme*

Staff below the SCS are also eligible to receive a special bonus to reward exceptional performance over a limited period in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Although awards are paid on an individual basis, line managers are able to make a number of awards to reward exceptional team effort—a 'team award'. Awards can be made at any time of the year and, ideally, should be paid as soon as possible after completion of the tasks to which they relate. These bonuses are not consolidated into basic salary or pensionable. Awards may be of any value up to a normal maximum of £600. The award of any sum greater than £600 is considered only very exceptionally.

There are five different civil service pension schemes in operation at all levels in Communities and Local Government at this time: classic, classic plus, nuvos, partnership and premium schemes. The pension scheme rules are determined by the Cabinet Office. Full information on the aforementioned schemes can be obtained from the civil service pensions website:

http://www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk/.

In addition to the aforementioned schemes, civil servants including those who are not able to join one of the above schemes, may also contribute to a Stakeholder pension with Standard Life, subject to eligibility. The civil service does not make any contributions to this scheme but contributions by individuals may be made through payroll.

Employees are entitled to the following expenses:

(a) expenses when they travel on official business within the UK away from their normal workplace;

(b) expenses when they travel on official business overseas;

(c) certain expenses that might be payable, if the employee is offered and agrees to a permanent transfer at public expense;

(d) certain expenses that might be payable if the employee agrees to work away from the normal workplace on detached duty; and

(e) the reimbursement of excess fares arising from a permanent transfer at public expense.

Expenses must be actually and necessarily incurred and must be supported by receipts. The submission of a claim knowingly containing false or inaccurate information may constitute a disciplinary offence and may lead to disciplinary action. The full detail of the expenses policy is set out in the staff handbook.

The total expenses incurred for each salary band for each of the past 10 years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For each pay band the average age, numbers of men and women, and ethnic composition are given in the following table. In order to avoid disclosing confidential information about individual staff members we have grouped together certain salary bands.

| | | *Sex* | | *Ethnic origin (percentage)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Salary band* | *Average age (years)* | *Male (FTE)* | *Female (FTE)* | *White* | *BME* | *Unknown* |
| Industrial bands | 47 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 86 |
| Band 1 & 2 | 43 | 118 | 161 | 36 | 22 | 43 |
| Band 3 | 40 | 184 | 221 | 42 | 27 | 31 |
| Band 4 | 39 | 281 | 277 | 59 | 15 | 27 |
| Band 5 | 43 | 185 | 127 | 52 | 9 | 38 |
| Band 6 | 42 | 258 | 222 | 61 | 7 | 32 |
| Band 7 | 46 | 73 | 35 | 59 | 8 | 33 |
| SCS | 46 | 74 | 59 | 71 | 3 | 26 |

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in bonuses to staff in the home information pack division in the last year for which figures are available. [171496]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Given the small number of staff in the home information packs division, it would be a breach of confidentiality and therefore inappropriate to give details.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if she will break down her Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174993]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following tables show, for the main and winter supplementary estimates, the split of provision between near cash, non cash and capital grants by estimate line.

*(a) Main Estimate Provision 2007-08*

*£000*

| | | *Near cash* | *Non cash* | *Capital Grants* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *RfR 1* | | | | |
| | *Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)* | | | | |
| | *Central Government Support* | | | | |
| A | Housing Supply and Demand | 137,825 | 3,107 | 51,000 | 191,932 |
| B | Decent Places to Live | 19,729 | — | 500 | 20,229 |
| C | Tackling Disadvantage | 129,851 | — | 8,164 | 138,015 |
| D | Better Services | 123,573 | 20,140 | 5,000 | 148,713 |
| E | Development of the English Regions | 610,125 | — | 988,809 | 1,598,934 |
| F | Central Administration | 191,217 | 18,644 | — | 209,861 |
| G | Government Office Administration | 101,261 | 455 | — | 101,716 |
| H | European Structural Funds—net | 1 | — | — | 1 |

| | | | | | £000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Near cash | Non cash | Capital Grants | Total |
| I | European Structural Funds—Communities and Local Government | 10,000 | — | 1 | 10,001 |
| J | Ordnance Survey | -1,340 | 1,320 | — | -20 |
| K | Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre Executive Agency | -1,409 | 117 | — | -1,292 |
| L | Local Area Agreements | -463,462 | — | -73,869 | -537,331 |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | | | |
| M | Housing Supply and Demand | 118,030 | — | 1,114,309 | 1,232,339 |
| N | Decent Places to Live | 2,839 | — | -108,342 | -105,503 |
| O | Tackling Disadvantage | 1,927,285 | — | 252,681 | 2,179,966 |
| P | Better Services | 10,001 | — | 10,000 | 20,001 |
| Q | Development of the English Regions | 6,000 | — | 25,000 | 31,000 |
| R | European Structural Funds—net | 0 | — | 1 | 1 |
| S | Local Area Agreements | 1,139,833 | — | 146,916 | 1,286,749 |
| | *Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)* | | | | |
| | *Central Government Support* | | | | |
| T | Decent Places to Live | 679,100 | — | — | 679,100 |
| U | Better Services | — | 50 | — | 50 |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | | | |
| V | Better Services | 163,354 | — | — | 163,354 |
| | *Non-Budget* | | | | |
| W | Housing Supply and Demand | 2,460,297 | — | — | 2,460,297 |
| X | Better Services | 2,040 | — | — | 2,040 |
| Y | Decent Places to Live | — | — | 616,000 | 616,000 |
| Z | Tackling Disadvantage | 34,492 | — | — | 34,492 |
| | Main Estimate Total RfR 1 | 7,400,642 | 43,833 | 3,036,170 | 10,480,645 |
| | *RfR2* | | | | |
| | *Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)* | | | | |
| | *Central Government Support* | | | | |
| A | Valuation Services | 174,450 | — | — | 174,450 |
| B | Best Value inspection subsidies to Public Corporations & Best Value Intervention costs | 22,720 | — | — | 22,720 |
| C | Local Government Research and Publicity, Mapping Costs and Electoral Law | 3,439 | — | — | 3,439 |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | | | |
| D | Revenue Support Grants | 3,725,931 | — | — | 3,725,931 |
| E | Non Domestic Rates Payments | 18,500,000 | — | — | 18,500,000 |
| F | London Governance | 38,348 | — | — | 38,348 |
| G | Other Grants and Payments | 244,423 | — | 134,251 | 378,674 |
| | *Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)* | | | | |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | | | |
| H | Non-domestic Rates Outturn Adjustments and LABGIS | 809,000 | — | — | 809,000 |
| | *Non-Budget* | | | | |
| I | Non-departmental Public Bodies | 20,475 | — | — | 20,475 |
| | Main Estimate Total RfR 2 | 23,538,786 | 0 | 134,251 | 23,673,037 |
| | Main Estimate Grand Total | 30,939,428 | 43,833 | 3,170,421 | 34,153,682 |

*Winter Supplementary Estimate* *(b) Provision 2007-08*

£000

| | | Near Cash | Non Cash | Capital Grants | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *RfR1* | | | | | |
| | *Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)* | | | | |
| | *Central Government Support* | | | | |
| A | Housing Supply and Demand | 127,560 | 7,695 | 36,611 | 171,866 |
| B | Decent Places to Live | 20,641 | 1,255 | 82,810 | 104,706 |
| C | Tackling Disadvantage | 112,047 | 690 | 10,396 | 123,133 |
| D | Better Services | 123,667 | 21,016 | 5,000 | 149,683 |
| E | Development of the English Regions | 612,561 | — | 988,809 | 1,601,370 |
| F | Central Administration | 191,080 | 16,107 | — | 207,187 |
| G | Government Office Administration | 119,336 | 455 | — | 119,791 |
| H | European Structural Funds—net | 1 | — | 0 | 1 |
| I | European Structural Funds—Communities and Local Government | 10,102 | — | 1 | 10,103 |
| J | Ordnance Survey | -3,600 | 1,320 | — | -2,280 |
| K | Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre Executive Agency | -1,615 | 117 | — | -1,498 |
| L | Local Area Agreements | -1,016,679 | — | -73,869 | -1,090,548 |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | | | |
| M | Housing Supply and Demand | 120,481 | — | 1,026,355 | 1,146,836 |
| N | Decent Places to Live | 2,839 | — | -108,442 | -105,603 |
| O | Tackling Disadvantage | 1,934,273 | — | 266,633 | 2,200,906 |
| P | Better Services | 16,537 | — | 20,000 | 36,537 |
| Q | Development of the English Regions | 6,000 | — | 25,000 | 31,000 |
| R | European Structural Funds—net | 0 | — | 1 | 1 |
| S | Local Area Agreements | 1,700,440 | — | 149,845 | 1,850,285 |
| | *Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)* | | | | |
| | *Central Government Support* | | | | |
| T | Decent Places to Live | 679,063 | — | — | 679,063 |
| U | Better Services | — | 50 | — | 50 |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | | | |
| V | Better Services | 163,354 | — | — | 163,354 |
| | *Non-Budget* | | | | |
| W | Housing Supply and Demand | 2,586,779 | — | — | 2,586,779 |
| X | Better Services | 2,040 | — | — | 2,040 |
| Y | Decent Places to Live | — | — | 616,000 | 616,000 |
| Z | Tackling Disadvantage | 1,546 | — | — | 1,546 |
| | Winter Supplementary Total RfR 1 | 7,508,453 | 48,705 | 3,045,150 | 10,602,308 |
| | IRfR2 | | | | |
| | *Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)* | | | | |
| | *Central Government Support* | | | | |
| A | Valuation Services | 174,450 | — | — | 174,450 |
| B | Best Value inspection subsidies to Public Corporations & Best Value Intervention costs | 24,420 | — | — | 24,420 |
| C | Local Government Research and Publicity, Mapping Costs and Electoral Law | 3,554 | — | — | 3,554 |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | | | |
| D | Revenue Support Grants | 3,762,931 | — | — | 3,762,931 |
| E | Non Domestic Rates Payments | 18,500,000 | — | — | 18,500,000 |
| F | London Governance | 38,348 | — | — | 38,348 |
| G | Other Grants and Payments | 207,308 | — | 126,251 | 333,559 |

| | | | | | *£000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Near Cash* | *Non Cash* | *Capital Grants* | *Total* |
| | *Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)* | | | | |
| | *Support for Local Authorities* | | | | |
| H | Non-domestic Rates Outturn Adjustments and LABGIS | 955,599 | — | — | 955,599 |
| | Non-Budget | | | | |
| I | Non-departmental Public Bodies | 20,907 | | | 20,907 |
| | Winter Supplementary Total RfR 2 | 23,687,517 | 0 | 126,251 | 23,813,768 |
| | Winter Supplementary Grand Total | 31,195,970 | 48,705 | 3,171,401 | 34,416,076 |

## Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to promote the use of *(a)* referendums and *(b)* direct democracy. [171721]

**John Healey:** Section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003 provides an express power for local authorities to hold advisory polls on local government matters; and under the Local Government Act 2000 referendums can be held in relation to local authorities' governance arrangements. Whether local authorities hold referendums or not is a matter for them. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State launched an action plan on community empowerment on 19 October, which included measures to promote direct democracy such as more participatory budgeting, a consultation on local petitions and development of more voluntary agreements between local authorities and communities (through local charters).

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 681W to my hon. Friend the Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on departmental public participation, if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the pilot employee engagement survey by Ipsos Mori and *(b)* the last completed staff survey by Ipsos Mori; and what the subject is of the GfK study. [174412]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Completed staff surveys are published on the corporate website. As part of our ongoing research on homebuying reform, GfK were commissioned to explore understanding and perceptions of home information packs.

## Departmental Responsibilities

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces her Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to initiate; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [170155]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: Information relating to ad hoc reviews, groups and taskforces for which the Department is responsible is published at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/publicbodies2007

Information on consultations is published on the 10 Downing street website at:

www.pm.gov.uk

The Government keep policies under constant review and is in frequent contact with a range of stakeholders. The Department does not hold records of forthcoming reviews and consultations where the terms of reference or publication date have not yet been agreed. Within the disproportionate cost threshold, it has been possible to identify a number of reviews with a set remit and fixed completion date, details of which are set out in the following table:

*CLG reviews 18 December 2007*

| *Reviews* | *Start date* | *Completion date* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The future of building control | 29 March 2007 | We do not yet have a fixed completion date | To review the principles and requirements for building standards and make recommendations on how the building control system can be revitalised |
| Councillors Commission | February 2007 | December 2007 | To make recommendations on the incentives and barriers to encouraging suitably able, qualified and representative people to become councillors |
| Evaluation of Social HomeBuy scheme | October 2006 | December 2007 | To understand the take up, and barriers to take up, of the pilot Social HomeBuy scheme by both housing association and local authority tenants and landlords |

*CLG reviews 18 December 2007*

| *Reviews* | *Start date* | *Completion date* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Review of the future governance of the Planning Portal | July 2006 | March 2008 | To identify and analyse future ownership options for the Planning Portal and, if appropriate, plan a project to transfer to a successor body |
| Matthew Taylor MP Review of land use | 3 September 2007 | July 2008 | To review how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing |
| Brian Pomery Review of Shared Equity | July 2007 | December 2007 | To advise on development of the private shared equity market |

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from her Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167279]

**Hazel Blears:** The table presents the number of inward and outward secondments that began in each complete financial year since the formation of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May 2002.

| | *Inward secondments* | *Outward secondments* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 54 | 26 |
| 2005-06 | 30 | 22 |
| 2004-05 | 60 | 26 |
| 2003-04 | 51 | 16 |

Listed are the destinations of outward secondments where these have been recorded centrally. During the period the destination of outward secondees has not been collected centrally on a comprehensive basis. This list represents the partial information that is available.

*Recorded Destination Organisations for Outward Secondments*

Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust
Bexley Council
Bracknell-Forest Council
Camden Council
Centre for Enterprise (CFE)
Circle Anglia
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
English Partnerships
European Commission
Firebuy
Government Office London
Groundwork UK
Housing Corporation
Judicial Appointments Commission
London Development Agency
Lewisham Council
Local Government Association
London and Quadrant Housing Group
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Madrid
Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)
Prince of Wales Office
Regenter
South West Regional Development Agency
Southwark Council
The Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea
The Scarman Trust
UNESCO Institute of statistics (Canada)
Valuation Office Agency
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

Listed next are the origins of inward secondments where this has been recorded centrally. Again, during the period the origin of inward secondees has not been collected centrally on a comprehensive basis. This list represents the partial information that is available.

*Recorded Organisations from which Inward secondments have been drawn*

Audit Commission
Avon Fire and Rescue Service
Basildon District Council
Beds and Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Bradford Council
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
British Urban Regeneration Association
Broxtowe Borough Council
Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
Bucks and Milton Keynes Fire Authority
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
Centrepoint
Chief Fire Officers Association
City of York Council
Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
Crisis
Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
Devon County Council
Devon Fire and Rescue Service
Dorset Fire and Rescue Service
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
Essex county Fire and Rescue Service
Gloucester Fire and Rescue Service
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
Hampshire County Council-National Youth Agency
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Homeless Link
Housing Corporation
Humberside Fire and Rescue Service

Improvement and Development Agency (IDEA)
Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
Leicester Fire and Rescue Service
London Borough of Barnet
London Borough of Camden
London Borough of Hammersmith
London Borough of Lambeth
London Borough of Newham
London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames
London Civic Forum
London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)
London Fire and Rescue Service
Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service
Maple Access
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Norfolk County Council
Northamptonshire County Council
Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Priority Estates Project (PEP)
Railtrack
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Stoke-on-Trent Council
Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service
Suffolk County Council
Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
Swindon and Wiltshire Fire Authority
The Princes Trust
Town and Country Planning Association
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
University of East London
Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service
West Sussex County Council
West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

The lengths of each secondment that began in each complete financial year since the formation of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May 2002 are given in the following table. Secondments that have not yet been completed, as at 31 October, are referred to as ongoing.

| | *Inward Secondment Lengths* | | *Outward Secondment Lengths* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Years* | *Number* | *Years* |
| *2006-07* | 29 | ongoing | 16 | ongoing. |
| | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.3 |
| | 19 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.4 |
| | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.6 |
| | 3 | 0.6 | 4 | 0.7 |
| | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | | | 1 | 1.1 |
| *2005-06* | 17 | ongoing | 2 | ongoing |
| | 2 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.2 |
| | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.3 |
| | 1 | 0.7 | 4 | 0.4 |
| | 1 | 0.9 | 1 | 0.5 |
| | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0.7 |
| | 2 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.8 |
| | 1 | 1.4 | 1 | 0.9 |
| | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 1 |
| | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1.1 |
| | — | — | 3 | 1.2 |
| | — | — | 1 | 1.3 |
| | — | — | 1 | 1.5 |
| | — | — | 1 | 1.8 |
| | — | — | 1 | 2.2 |
| *2004-05* | 12 | ongoing | 1 | ongoing |
| | 5 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.3 |
| | 3 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.4 |
| | 2 | 0.6 | 2 | 0.5 |
| | 6 | 0.7 | 2 | 0.7 |
| | 1 | 0.8 | 5 | 1 |
| | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1.1 |
| | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 1.2 |
| | 2 | 1.2 | 1 | 1.3 |
| | 4 | 1.3 | 1 | 1.5 |
| | 3 | 1.5 | 2 | 1.6 |
| | 2 | 1.6 | 1 | 1.9 |
| | 1 | 1.7 | 1 | 2 |
| | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 2.1 |
| | 1 | 1.9 | 2 | 2.3 |
| | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | 3 | 2.1 | — | — |
| | 1 | 2.3 | — | — |
| | 1 | 2.4 | — | — |
| | 3 | 2.5 | — | — |
| *2003-04* | 3 | ongoing | 1 | ongoing |
| | 1 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.4 |
| | 3 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.5 |
| | 3 | 0.3 | 1 | 1 |
| | 4 | 0.5 | 1 | 1.1 |
| | 2 | 0.6 | 1 | 1.2 |
| | 2 | 0.7 | 1 | 1.3 |
| | 4 | 0.8 | 1 | 1.7 |
| | 1 | 0.9 | 1 | 1.8 |
| | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1.9 |
| | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | 2 |
| | 2 | 1.2 | 1 | 2.3 |
| | 2 | 1.4 | 1 | 2.8 |
| | 2 | 1.5 | 1 | 3.3 |
| | 2 | 1.6 | 1 | 3.4 |
| | 4 | 1.7 | 1 | 4.4 |

| | Inward Secondment Lengths | | Outward Secondment Lengths | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Years | Number | Years |
| | 1 | 1.8 | — | — |
| | 1 | 1.9 | — | — |
| | 4 | 2 | — | — |
| | 1 | 2.5 | — | — |
| | 1 | 2.7 | — | — |
| | 1 | 2.9 | — | — |
| | 1 | 3.1 | — | — |
| | 1 | 3.7 | — | — |

For nearly all outward secondments we fully recover the costs from the importing organisation so the only costs to the Department are the associated administrative costs. Each year we fund a small number of secondments to bodies such as the European Commission to provide development opportunities for staff. These costs and the cost of each secondment for each year could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of her Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established. [166547]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government (CLG) does not have a call centre. CLG shares a switchboard service with DfT. The service is provided by and managed by our telephony contractor, Siemens, who employ six agents to answer general inquiries. The contract has been in existence since October 2004 with the number of staff remaining the same. All calls are handled via a queuing system and are either responded to directly (if the information is available on their database) or transferred to a policy official. The service does not collect personal information and the only monitoring relates to statistical information on the performance of call handling activity. Both Departments meet monthly with suppliers to discuss switchboard performance.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which her Department is responsible. [166548]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government does not collect personal data from inquirers to the switchboard. The Department only monitors the service in relation to its call handling performance against the contract requirements.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each telephone contact centre for which her Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment. [166549]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government (CLG) does not have a call centre, and its switchboard does not generate any income from calls. CLG shares this service with DfT paying £120,840 per annum for its share of the provision of this service.

### Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have cited moving to an alternate weekly collection of household rubbish as *(a)* cashable and *(b)* non-cashable efficiency savings in their submissions of (i) forward look and (ii) backward look annual efficiency statements to her Department in each year since their inception. [171598]

**Mr. Dhanda:** For information on citations in Annual Efficiency Statements up to the 2006-07 Forward Look, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1173-74W.

References for subsequent statements are as follows:

*2006-07 Backward Look*

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council;
Bracknell Forest Borough Council;
Canterbury City Council;
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council;
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council;
Kennet District Council;
South Cambridgeshire District Council;
Spelthorne Borough Council; and
and West Lancashire District Council.

*2007-08 Forward Look*

Bridgenorth District Council;
Canterbury City Council;
Kennet District Council;
Salisbury District Council;
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council;
Test Valley Borough Council; and
West Lancashire District Council.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether savings from moving to an alternate weekly collection from a weekly collection of household rubbish can be counted as a *(a)* cashable and *(b)* non-cashable efficiency savings for the purposes of local authorities' returns to her Department. [171599]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1736W.

### Fire Services: Consultants

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in fees to consultants for Fire Service-related work undertaken for her Department in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what estimated fees her Department expects to pay to consultants working on Fire Service-related work in each year covered by the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. [175281]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information for which figures are available is as follows:

| | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Consultants* | *Temp staff* | *Total* |
| 2002-03 | 3.38 | 0.19 | 3.57 |
| 2003-04 | 5.29 | 0.35 | 5.64 |
| 2004-05 | 13.27 | 0.74 | 14.01 |
| 2005-06 | 15.35 | 0.99 | 16.34 |
| 2006-07 | 20.83 | 1.29 | 22.12 |
| 2007-08 | 8.28 | 15.48 | 23.76 |

The cost of temporary staff has been included to reflect a recent re-categorisation of costs. The increased expenditure from 2004-05 is due to the programme of modernising the fire and rescue service. This includes the Fire and Resilience Programme, which will improve the service's capability to respond to major emergencies, including natural disasters, industrial accidents and acts of terrorism.

Estimates of fees to be paid during the CSR07 period are not yet available.

### Fire Services: Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Gershon savings the Government expect to obtain from *(a)* stand-alone fire authorities and *(b)* fire authorities which are part of a local authority. [175014]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* At the start of SR04, all Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in England were set a national target to achieve £105 million gross cashable efficiency gains in the years 2005-06 to 2007-08. The evidence received by the Department to date indicates that FRAs are set to exceed this target and have achieved approximately £132 million in cashable efficiency gains in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Based on forecast figures provided by FRAs, a further £44 million will be achieved in 2007-08.

Cashable efficiency gains by authority type to the end of 2006-07 are as follows:

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities | 50,850,000 |
| Combined Authorities | 45,993,000 |
| London | 20,813,000 |
| County Authorities | 15,287,000 |
| Total | 132.9 million |

### Homelessness: Greater London

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to investigate the reasons for the 70 per cent. reduction in the number of statutory homelessness acceptances in the London borough of Newham. [172990]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Homelessness prevention is key to our work on tackling homelessness and continues to be a very effective approach. Nearly all local authorities have a comprehensive prevention toolkit in place, which is leading to successful early interventions to help households avoid the crisis of homelessness altogether.

London borough of Newham have been particularly pro-active on the prevention agenda over the last 12 months which has led to significant reductions in homelessness acceptances. The successful number of homelessness preventions in the borough rose by 278 per cent. to 1,696 in 2006-07.

On 5 December, we announced homelessness grant funding of at least £150 million over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to continue to support local authorities to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area. This a 6 per cent. increase on the current year. London borough of Newham's homelessness grant will increase from £200,000 to £300,000 for 2008-09, a rise of 50 per cent.

A Homelessness Action Team has been set up in partnership with the Department and the Housing Corporation. This team will continue to monitor and support the London borough of Newham and the other London boroughs in their efforts to tackle homelessness.

### Housing: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes the Government have *(a)* made and *(b)* announced to the (i) total amount of funding for, (ii) maximum allocated to individuals under, (iii) bidding process used in and (iv) eligibility requirements for private sector renewal grants in the last 12 months. [174547]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** £10.2 billion has been allocated by my Department for regional housing funding for 2008-11 for housing capital programmes including those which address the condition of private sector housing stock. Of this, almost £2 billion is for improvements and regeneration to the existing stock (both local authority owned and private sector). These allocations were announced on 12 December.

No changes have been made to the bidding process for the Regional Housing Pot and we are currently seeking the Regional Assemblies' recommendations on allocations to individual local authorities in their area drawn from the private sector renewal part of the Regional Housing Pot.

### Housing: Industrial Health and Safety

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department will require from local authorities on the implementation of the housing health and safety ratings system. [174204]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return we are collecting data from local authorities on the number of private sector dwellings with category one hazards, the estimated cost of removing the category 1 hazards and the number of private sector dwellings made free of category one hazards or demolished as a direct result of action by the local authority during 2006-07.

Through the Business Plan Statistical Appendix returns we are collecting data on the number of local authority homes that do not meet the statutory minimum standard for housing and the costs to put the defects right.

Subject to data quality the Department plans to publish these data in January.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she proposes to give Bridging Newcastle Gateshead (BNG) on the proportion of new homes to be created by BNG in the Newcastle Housing Pilot Area which will be affordable to rent or buy. [172490]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* I do not propose to issue any guidance on this matter. It is for individual Housing Pathfinders such as BNG to determine appropriate levels of affordable homes, working in conjunction with other authorities and with the involvement of the local community. In the case of Newcastle, decisions about the mix and level of affordability will be informed by the city's housing strategy, the Walker Riverside Area Action Plan, adopted in April 2007, the draft Core Strategy Development Plan Document, and the draft Benwell/Scotswood Area Action Plan.

### Housing: Owner Occupation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the causes for recent changes in the level of home ownership. [171602]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Sustained economic growth and stability since 1997 have created the conditions for a growth in home ownership, with a million more home owners over the last 10 years. The Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable" (CM 7191), published in July, set out the Government's assessment of progress on housing, together with plans to address the housing challenges the country faces.

We have recently published the Housing and Regeneration Bill, which will help deliver the commitments set out in the Housing Green Paper to deliver more and greener homes, in mixed and sustainable communities. The Bill also establishes the new Homes and Communities Agency which will focus on delivering more new and affordable homes across all tenures and will drive and invest in regeneration.

### Housing: Standards

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many children under the age of 16 years were housed in accommodation classified as overcrowded or unsuitable in each region in England for each of the last five years. [170357]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** It is estimated that, over the period 2001-02 to 2005-06, there were an average of 900,000 children under the age of 16 living in overcrowded conditions in England, with the following regional split.

*Number of children under 16 living in overcrowded conditions, average 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| *Government office region* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| North East | 30,000 |
| North West | 110,000 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 70,000 |
| East Midlands | 50,000 |
| West Midlands | 110,000 |
| Eastern | 70,000 |
| London | 280,000 |
| South East | 110,000 |
| South West | 70,000 |
| England | 900,000 |

*Source:*
Survey of English Housing.

Estimates for each year are not available because of small sample sizes.

The benchmark for assessing whether or not a household is overcrowded is the bedroom standard. This is determined for each household in accordance with its age/sex/marital status composition and the relationship of the members to one another. A separate bedroom is required:

for each married or cohabiting couple;

for any other person aged 21 or over;

for each pair of adolescents aged 10-20 of the same sex and

for each pair of children under 10.

Further, any unpaired person aged 10-20 is paired, if possible with a child under 10 of the same sex, or, if that is not possible, he or she is counted as requiring a separate bedroom, as is any unpaired child under 10.

This standard is then compared with the actual number of bedrooms (including bed-sitters) available for the sole use of the household. Bedrooms converted to other uses are not counted as available unless they have been denoted as bedrooms by the residents. Bedrooms not actually in use are counted unless uninhabitable.

If a household has fewer bedrooms than implied by the standard then it is deemed to be 'overcrowded'. Since one bedroom will be sufficient for single person households and for married/cohabiting couples, these households cannot be overcrowded according to the bedroom standard. If a household has two or more bedrooms, fewer than implied by the standard, then it is deemed to be 'severely overcrowded'.

On 12 December, my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing announced an additional £15 million funding for overcrowding and launched an action plan setting out the Government's commitment to tackling overcrowding—copies have been placed in the Library of the House. We have already announced an increase in the provision of new social housing including a year-on-year increase in the number of family homes, namely those with three or more bedrooms.

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether any local housing authorities have informed her Department that they will not be able to achieve the decent home standard by 2010; [171957]

(2) how many local housing authorities are on target to meet the decent home standard by 2010. [171959]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Of the 354 district and single tier local authorities, 293 have delivered or have plans in lace to deliver decent homes for their own housing stock by the end of 2010. 61 have negotiated decent homes delivery deadlines later than 2010, or are in the process of negotiating those deadlines.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for her Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170481]

**Mr. Dhanda:** There is no information to suggest that anyone without the appropriate employment status has worked in the Department for Communities and Local Government.

### Local Authorities: Equal Opportunities

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the cost of the implementation of the Disability Equality Duty on local authorities. [173550]

**John Healey:** It is for the Department introducing new legislation to undertake a regulatory impact assessment of the legislation, including the costs to different sectors, including—where appropriate—local government. This was done as part of the impact assessment for the Disability Equality Duty, published in April 2005.

### Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local authorities in England have received in cash terms from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme in each year of its operation; and what amount is forecast to be received in each of the next three years. [171630]

**John Healey:** Details of the current Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGI) were first announced in a written ministerial statement to the House on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 118-120WS. This said that local authorities would stand to gain up to £1 billion through the scheme in England and Wales over three years, with the first payment to be made in February 2006. Under LABGI, local authorities in England have received cash payments of £150 million in 2005-06 and £384 million in 2006-07. We remain committed to allocating up to £935 million across England over the three years of the scheme.

The future of LABGI will be determined in part by responses to an 'issues paper', published in October, which seeks views on reform of LABGI and its incorporation into the mainstream system of funding. This paper can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/labgischemereforms

The reformed incentive scheme would be phased-in from 2009-10. £50 million will be available in England for 2009-10 and this will double to £100 million in 2010-11.

### Local Government Finance

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will rank each English local authority by real terms *(a)* percentage change and *(b)* expenditure in revenue support grant in each year since 1992. [170637]

**John Healey:** Information on settlements in the years 2007-08 and 2006-07 are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0708/grant.htm

and

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0607/grant.htm.

Information on settlements are, as a matter of course, each year, placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of specific grants to local government were ring-fenced in the latest period for which figures are available. [171716]

**John Healey:** Excluding Dedicated Schools Grant and other schools grants, the level of ring-fencing of local authority funding is 10.5 per cent. in 2007-08. On a comparable basis, ring-fencing in 2006-07 was also 10.5 per cent.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is expected to be allocated by her Department in *(a)* specific and *(b)* ring-fenced grants in each of the next three years. [173322]

**John Healey:** Information on specific revenue grants intended to be provided to local authorities from this Department is set out in the following table:

*£ million*

| | *Ringfenced/ unringfenced* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Supporting people[1] | RF | 1,686.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Private finance initiative | UF | 677.000 | 853.000 | 1,069.000 |
| LAA reward grant | UF | 244.000 | 234.000 | 123.000 |
| Housing and planning delivery grant[2] | UF | 67.000 | 160.000 | 250.000 |
| Homelessness | UF | 49.204 | 49.204 | 49.204 |
| Housing market renewal fund | RF | 25.000 | 25.000 | 25.000 |

*£ million*

| | *Ringfenced/ unringfenced* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Working neighbourhoods fund reward grant | UF | 0.000 | 0.000 | 50.000 |
| Growth areas, points and eco towns | UF | 14.000 | 14.000 | 14.000 |
| Total | | 2,762.204 | 1,335.204 | 1,580.204 |

[1] The aim is to include Supporting People funding in area based grant from 2009-10, dependent on pilots in 2008-09 not raising serious concerns.

[2] 2009-10 and 2010-11 HPDG figures are provisional. However, the total for HPDG resource plus capital over the three years of the CSR07 period will be £510 million.

In addition, the Department intends to provide £2,993.073, £4,829.169 and £4,742.056 million area based grant over the next three years. Area based grant is a new general grant to be paid by CLG. Supporting People funding is included within the total for 2009-10 and 2010-11, but is subject to review[1].

The Department will also provide specific grants to fire and rescue authorities to support their work on the resilience programme which, in the main, will be provided without conditions attached.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* specific and *(b)* ring-fenced grants will cease to be ring-fenced under her Department's plans to reduce ring-fencing in the period up to 2011. [173325]

**John Healey:** Under the Department's plans to reduce ring-fencing up to 2010-11, the following formerly ring-fenced specific revenue grants will have the ring-fence removed from 2008-09 onwards:

School Travel Advisers
School Improvement Partners
Primary National—Central Co-Ordination
Secondary National Strategy—Central Co-Ordination
Secondary National Strategy—Behaviour and Attendance
Extended Schools Start Up Costs
General Duty on Sustainable Travel to School
School Development Grant (Schools Element)
Extended Rights for Free Travel
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Mental Health
Children's Services Grant
Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation
Respect—Youth Taskforce Areas
Connexions
Children's Fund
Choice Advisers
Education Health Partnerships
Stronger Safer Communities Fund
Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
Working Neighbourhoods Fund (formerly Neighbourhood Renewal Fund)
Supporting People (2009-10 onwards)
Supporting People Administration
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative
Housing Market Renewal Grant
Growth Areas, Points and Eco Towns
Rural Bus Subsidy Grant.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether councils with above-average collection rates for *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates receive any financial reward in terms of additional revenue as a consequence of the higher collection rates. [173489]

**John Healey:** A council's performance on collecting council tax or business rates does not affect the amount of formula grant it receives.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide additional funding to local authorities for work on the bids for unitary status from *(a)* Exeter city, *(b)* Bedford borough, *(c)* Chester city and *(d)* Ipswich borough council. [174640]

**John Healey:** No. In the course of their business, local authorities respond to many consultation exercises and requests for information, and consequently, budget for this as part of their business planning.

### Local Government Finance: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the local authority grant settlement was per capita for Herefordshire in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [170964]

**John Healey:** The following table shows the average formula grant per head for Herefordshire for each year since 1997. Formula grant comprises Revenue Support Grant and redistributed business rates. In order to compare grant on a like-for-like basis we calculate a notional adjusted formula grant for the previous year which reflects the changes to funding and function. From 2006-07 support for schools was financed through the Dedicated Schools Grant; prior to 2006-07 support for schools was included within formula grant.

| *Current year*[1] | *Adjusted prior year's formula grant per head (£ per head)* | *Current year's formula grant per head (£ per head)* | *Change (£ per head)* | *Percentage change* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 491.73 | 487.52 | -4.22 | -0.9 |
| 1999-2000 | 487.52 | 511.57 | 24.06 | 4.9 |
| 2000-01 | 511.58 | 533.21 | 21.64 | 4.2 |
| 2001-02 | 532.65 | 556.58 | 23.93 | 4.5 |

| Current year | Adjusted prior year's formula grant per head (£ per head) | Current year's formula grant per head (£ per head) | Change (£ per head) | Percentage change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 545.55 | 575.17 | 29.62 | 5.4 |
| *Amended* | | | | |
| 2003-04 | 598.05 | 607.33 | 9.27 | 1.6 |
| 2004-05 | 590.82 | 631.81 | 40.99 | 6.9 |
| 2005-06 | 632.37 | 665.02 | 32.65 | 5.2 |
| 2006-07 | 256.94 | 259.45 | 2.51 | 1.0 |
| 2007-08 | 256.99 | 264.22 | 7.23 | 2.8 |

### Local Government Finance: Newcastle

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what baseline funding support for the city of Newcastle would be from the use of the *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2006 mid-year estimate of population. [169786]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The provisional formula grant settlement for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 use the Office for National Statistics revised 2004-based sub-national population projection for 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively as the main measure of the resident population.

These statistics are the best data available on a consistent basis for all local authorities and that are available at this time of calculating the next three-year formula grant settlement.

Mid-2006 estimates of population will also be used but only as part of other indicators that are used in the calculation of the relative needs component.

It is not possible to provide an estimate of how much formula grant would be allocated to the city of Newcastle if we use the mid-2004 or mid-2006 estimate of population as the main measure of population instead of the projection of population for 2008. This is because the Government might well have taken a different decision on the level of the grant floor using these scenarios, and projections for 2008 and beyond, based on the 2006 mid-year estimates, will not be available until summer 2008.

Under our proposals, Newcastle-upon-Tyne benefit from the grant floor over these three years by £8 million, £8.9 million and £9.6 million respectively.

We are currently consulting on these proposals, and we welcome any views on them by the 8 January 2008.

### Local Government Finance: Rural Areas

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she gives to rural factors when determining local authorities' grants allocation; and if she will make a statement. [170874]

**John Healey:** An authority's formula grant allocation is largely based on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the authority, together with the number of band D equivalent properties within its area. A measure of how sparsely the population is distributed in an area is included in the Local Authority Central Education Functions Relative Needs Formula (RNF), the Social Services for Older People RNF, the Police RNF and the district-level Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services RNF. We then ensure that no authority loses grant year-on-year on a like-for-like basis i.e. after adjusting for changes in funding and function. In order to pay for the cost of the floor, we scale back the increase above the floor for other authorities.

### Local Government Finance: Unitary Councils

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average local authority grant settlement was per capita for unitary authorities in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [170882]

**John Healey:** The following table shows the average formula grant per head for shire unitary authorities for each year since 1997. Formula grant comprises Revenue Support Grant and redistributed business rates. In order to compare grant on a like-for-like basis we calculate a notional adjusted formula grant for the previous year which reflects the changes to funding and function. From 2006-07 support for schools was financed through the Dedicated Schools Grant; prior to 2006-07 support for schools was included within formula grant.

| Current year | Adjusted prior year's formula grant per head (£ per head) | Current year's formula grant per head (£ per head) | Change (£ per head) | Percentage change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 587.96 | 597.53 | 9.56 | 1.6 |
| 1999-2000 | 597.53 | 623.28 | 25.75 | 4.3 |
| 2000-01 | 623.28 | 646.54 | 23.26 | 3.7 |
| 2001-02 | 643.22 | 667.88 | 24.65 | 3.8 |
| 2002-03 | 643.51 | 674.70 | 31.18 | 4.8 |

| *Current year* | *Adjusted prior year's formula grant per head (£ per head)* | *Current year's formula grant per head (£ per head)* | *Change (£ per head)* | *Percentage change* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Amended* | | | | |
| 2003-04 | 697.85 | 750.09 | 52.25 | 7.5 |
| 2004-05 | 726.87 | 767.68 | 40.82 | 5.6 |
| 2005-06 | 774.53 | 817.78 | 43.25 | 5.6 |
| 2006-07 | 329.25 | 335.92 | 6.67 | 2.0 |
| 2007-08 | 333.49 | 346.35 | 12.85 | 3.9 |

### Local Government: Bedfordshire

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what options her Department is considering for local government restructuring in *(a)* Bedfordshire and *(b)* Cheshire. [174461]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I have made to the House today (18 December 2007).

### Local Government: Elections

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to offer *(a)* free doughnuts or *(b)* free lottery tickets to incentivise the electorate to vote in local elections. [174535]

**John Healey:** The Secretary of State has received the Councillors Commission report and is considering the broad range of proposals it puts forward, in consultation with the LGA, local authorities and other key stakeholders. My right hon. Friend will be issuing our response, along with an implementation plan, in the spring.

### Local Government: Exeter

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information presented on Exeter City Council's bid for unitary status did not meet the criteria set out in the Invitation to Councils in England. [174192]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement 'Local Government', I made on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 65WS.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timescale is for the deferred decision on Exeter City Council's bid for unitary status. [174193]

**John Healey:** We aim to refer Exeter city council's unitary proposal to the Boundary Committee in time for them to begin their review as early as possible in the new year.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the Boundary Commission will consult on Exeter city council's bid for unitary status; and if she will ensure that the Boundary Commission publishes its terms of reference. [174194]

**John Healey:** Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Boundary Committee is required to consult the council of any area affected by the review and such local authorities, parish councils and other persons as appear to them to have an interest. The Government will publish the terms of their referral to the Boundary Committee.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations she has received which are opposed to Exeter City Council's bid for unitary status. [174237]

**John Healey:** We received some 700 responses to the stakeholder consultation in response to Exeter city council's proposal for unitary status. The consultation did not specifically ask consultees to indicate support specifically for or against the proposals. Of those responses, where this is discernable, approximately 80 per cent. broadly opposed the proposal.

### Local Government: Ipswich

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what representations she has received on the estimated cost of investigating unitary status for Ipswich from *(a)* Suffolk county council and *(b)* Ipswich borough council; [174206]

(2) what representations she has received on the number of man hours spent investigating unitary status for Ipswich by *(a)* Suffolk county council and *(b)* Ipswich borough council. [174207]

**John Healey:** We have received no representations from Suffolk county council or Ipswich borough council about the number of staff hours spent or costs incurred on proposals for unitary status.

### Local Government: Publicity

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity was last revised; and what plans she has to change the code. [174544]

**John Healey:** The code of recommended practice on local authority publicity was issued in 1988 and was last revised in April 2001. Following consultation by my Department earlier this year, which indicated general support for a centrally-issued code, we intend to consider the future of the code with local government stakeholders in the new year.

### Local Government: Reorganisation

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written statement of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 65WS, on local government, what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse *(a)* locally and *(b)* nationally of work on proposals for local government restructuring which will not be proceeded with. [173094]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: The Invitation to councils issued on 26 October made clear that it was wholly at the discretion of a council as to whether or not it responded to the invitation to make a proposal for future unitary local government structures in their area.

Within my Department a small team, costing some £1.7 million per year, works on all aspects of local government restructuring, including the assessment of all the unitary proposals and, as appropriate, their implementation.

### Local Government: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to adopt the recommendations of the Councillors' Commission final report on *(a)* local government pensions, *(b)* the code of practice on local authority publicity, *(c)* removing political restrictions on local authority staff and *(d)* councillor allowances. [174459]

**John Healey:** The Secretary of State has received the Councillors Commission report and is considering the broad range of proposals it puts forward, in consultation with the LGA, local authorities and other key stakeholders. My right hon. Friend will be issuing her response, along with an implementation plan, in the spring.

### Local Government: Suffolk

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what representations she has received on the cost of pursuing pathfinder status from *(a)* St. Edmundsbury borough council, *(b)* Forest Heath district council, *(c)* Babergh district council, *(d)* Mid Suffolk district council, *(e)* Suffolk coastal district council, *(f)* Waveney district council and *(g)* Suffolk county council; [174208]

(2) what representations she has received on the number of man hours spent pursuing pathfinder status from *(a)* St. Edmundsbury borough council, *(b)* Forest Heath district council, *(c)* Babergh district council, *(d)* Mid Suffolk district council, *(e)* Suffolk coastal district council, *(f)* Waveney district council and *(g)* Suffolk county council. [174209]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have received no representations from the named local authorities on the costs or number of man hours of pursuing pathfinder status.

### Local Government: Television Channels

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has incurred any expenditure, other than for publicity, on the Local Government Today television channel. [173298]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I am not aware that the Department has incurred any such expenditure.

### Maps: Copyright

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ordnance Survey plans to conduct an impact assessment in its review of the Paper Map Copying Licence fees, terms and conditions. [173319]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** A recent review by Ordnance Survey of the Paper Map Copying Licence has resulted in redrafting to clarify the terms and conditions. No previously available rights have been withdrawn as a result of this. An increase in licence royalties will be implemented from 1 January 2008, alongside a programme to make access to the licence easier, by allowing third party intermediaries to issue the licence and receive a fee for doing so.

Ordnance Survey undertakes regular reviews of all of its licence terms and conditions and charges. These reviews include routine assessments of the need for adjustments to licence terms and conditions, to maintain clarity for users and between licences intended for different purposes. The reviews take account of changes in market conditions, technology and the ways in which Ordnance Survey information is used. The assessments consider the balance between Ordnance Survey's financial obligations as a government trading fund and the impact of changes upon different types of user.

### Muslims: Females

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish a good practice guide on effective initiatives to strengthen the role that Muslim women play in their communities as referred to in the Preventing Violent Extremism report. [173955]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The good practice guide on effective initiatives to strengthen the role that Muslim women play in their communities will be published early in the new year.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many roundtables with academics, theologians and community leaders on women's access to mosque life have taken place as referred to in the Preventing Violent Extremism report; where they were held; and if she will make a statement. [173956]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Since April 2007, there have been two roundtable meetings with academics, theologians and leading Muslim women in which women's access to mosque life was discussed, which built on a previous roundtable earlier in the year. These roundtables were held at the Department for Communities and Local Government, Eland House, London.

The Department has also hosted two wider stakeholder roundtables in which a range of issues, including the empowerment of Muslim women, was discussed.

### Muslims: Vocational Training

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department is providing to help develop leadership skills among Muslim women and young people; what the cost of this has been; and what expenditure is planned in the next three years. [173952]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In the financial year 2007-08 Communities and Local Government (CLG) supported the development of leadership skills among Muslim women and young people through the funding of projects from the Preventing Violent Extremism: Community Leadership Fund and providing media seminars.

£233,200 of the Preventing Violent Extremism: Community Leadership Fund has been spent on building the leadership capacity of Muslim women and young people.

CLG is both independently and jointly funding media seminars with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to enable a greater number of young British Muslims, both men and women, to have the confidence and the skills to act as community leaders and ensure their voices are heard in wider public debate. The cost of this to date is £1,375 and work is ongoing.

The Secretary of State has undertaken to provide £45 million for local projects and £25 million for national schemes to support communities in preventing violent extremism. The Secretary of State made it clear in her speech at the Preventing Extremism: Strengthening Communities National Conference that women and young people will be prioritised.

### National Anthems

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what work *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Equalities and Human Rights Commission is (i) undertaking and (ii) funding on changes to the national anthem. [174542]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government and the Equality and Human Rights Commission are not undertaking or funding any work on changes to the national anthem.

### Office of the Local Government Ombudsman: Conditions of Employment

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is a requirement for staff in the Office of the Local Government Ombudsman not to have previously been local government employees. [174899]

**John Healey:** There is no such requirement.

### Pedestrian Areas: Safety

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many claims have been made against local authorities for trips and falls due to uneven pavements in each of the last five years. [173072]

**Mr. Dhanda:** This information is not held centrally.

### Planning

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the *(a)* rural proofing analysis and *(b)* an environmental impact assessment was undertaken in the Impact Assessment for Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. [173341]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The current consultation on the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant takes forward a key component of the Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the future" (Cm 7191), which set out how Government would deliver on their housing target of 240,000 new homes per year by 2016.

The Green Paper had been accompanied by a detailed impact assessment, which included its own rural proofing, sustainability and other environmental analyses.

### Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 have yet to be commenced. [171505]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The provisions yet to be commenced are included in the table that I have deposited in the Library of the House.

### Planning Permission: Greenbelt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the *(a)* new Infrastructure Planning Commission and *(b)* regional development agencies will have from 2010 to review or remove green belt planning protection. [174455]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Under the terms of the Planning Bill, the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will take over the powers currently held by the Secretary of State, where a nationally significant infrastructure project would propose to use green belt land. The IPC would only be able to use these powers where this is in accordance with the national policy statement, which would set out (among other matters) how the Secretary of State believes applications referring to green belt land should be treated. Clause 125 of the Planning Bill makes clear that where an order granting development consent allows the acquisition or sale of green belt land, or frees it from any restrictions imposed on it under the Green Belt Act 1938, the IPC must notify all relevant local authorities and the Secretary of State.

With regard to regional development agencies, we have yet to consult on the details of their future role in spatial planning following on from our proposals set out in the Sub National Economic Development and

Regeneration Review (July 2007). We will be consulting in the new year on how these proposals are to be implemented.

### Planning: Leisure

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the funding allocated for infrastructure in growth areas and growth points will be available for new build and refurbishment of sports and leisure facilities. [174846]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Funding allocated through the £732 million Growth Fund to local authorities and their partnerships in the Growth Areas and Growth Points is intended to enable local authorities to make growth more sustainable, including provision of new community facilities. The funding is un-ringfenced and it is for local authorities to prioritise how this funding is used in their area, including whether to invest this funding for new build and refurbishment of sports and leisure facilities.

### Planning: Renewable Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely impact of allowing greater provision of energy from renewable sources off-site on the UK's capacity to contribute to the EU target that 20 per cent. of energy should come from renewable sources by 2020; and if she will make a statement. [167073]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Impact Assessment undertaken for our policy statement: Building a Greener Future, published in July 2007, estimated that the Government's zero carbon home policy could generate an increased contribution from renewables to the total UK electricity demand of around one per cent by 2020. The policy statement defined renewable energy supply for zero carbon homes in this context as coming from on site or local, decentralised energy sources connected to the development. The Impact Assessment did not disaggregate between these different sources.

### Planning: Retail Trade

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her timetable is for revising planning policy statements on out-of-town retail developments. [174541]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 149W.

### Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund: Finance

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to increase levels of funding for the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund over the next three years. [174757]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Community Leadership Fund objectives are supporting women; building community leadership including leadership by young people and building community capacity to resist violent extremist ideologies. Grant funding for these objectives will increase substantially over the next three years.

### Public Bodies: Internet

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what work or research is being *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned by her Department on the development of XML schema for the sharing of data between public authorities. [173295]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government (CLG) has a number of XML schemas in use at present as this is the currently preferred mechanism for collecting data in a standard format and in accordance with eGIF.

CLG are presently devising a data interchange mechanism that uses XML for collecting and sharing the National Indicator set as part of the New Performance Framework across Local, Regional and Central Government. As part of this programme CLG has commissioned a partner to build a data interchange hub.

### Recreation Spaces: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many acres of green space there are in the Borough of Tamworth, excluding the flood plain area. [174714]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The amount of green space within the borough of Tamworth excluding the flood plain is 2,400 acres.

### Recycling: Birmingham

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the household recycling rates were in Birmingham city council area in *(a)* each year since 2000-01 and *(b)* each quarter in 2006-07; and what municipal recycling rates were in 2006-07. [171101]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

The reported figures for Best Value Performance Indicators 182a and 182b (the percentage of household waste recycled or composted) for Birmingham city council for each year since 2000-01 are as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 13.6 |
| 2001-02 | 8.4 |
| 2002-03 | 10.8 |
| 2003-04 | 12.93 |
| 2004-05 | 14.94 |
| 2005-06 | 16.99 |
| 2006-07 | 18.39 |

The household recycling/composting rate percentages for each quarter in 2006-07 were as follows:

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| April to June | 23 |
| July to September | 25 |
| October to December | 17 |
| January to March | 20 |

Birmingham city council's municipal recycling rate for 2006-07 was 20.24 per cent.

### Regional Government: Brussels

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which regional assemblies have offices in Brussels; and how much each spent on each of the offices in each of the last three years. [173316]

**John Healey:** Each of the regional assemblies makes a contribution with regional partners, including the regional development agency and regional local government association, towards an office in Brussels. Details of the cost incurred by each assembly are:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Assembly* | *Cost of maintenance* |
| *East* | |
| 2005-06 | [1]340,000 |
| 2006-07 | [1]350,000 |
| 2007-08 | [1]360,000 |
| *East Midlands* | |
| 2005-06 | 7,500 |
| 2006-07 | 20,000 |
| 2007-08 | 20,400 |
| *North East* | |
| 2005-06 | 90,190 |
| 2006-07 | 64,000 |
| 2007-08 | 66,000 |
| *North West* | |
| 2005-06 | 19,810 |
| 2006-07 | 19,810 |
| 2007-08 | 19,810 |
| *South East* | |
| 2005-06 | 51,500 |
| 2006-07 | 53,600 |
| 2007-08 | 75,000 |
| *South West* | |
| 2005-06 | 11,000 |
| 2006-07 | 11,330 |
| 2007-08 | 4,000 |
| *West Midlands* | |
| 2005-06 | 6,900 |
| 2006-07 | Nil |
| 2007-08 | Nil |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | |
| 2005-06 | 312,900 |
| 2006-07 | 340,000 |
| 2007-08 | [2]— |

[1] Figures for the east of England are estimates as the regional assembly is unable to provide precise figures.
[2] Information not yet available.
*Note*:
Figures for 2007-08 are estimates based on expenditure to date.

### Regional Government: East of England

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what engagements the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield has attended in her capacity as Minister for the East of England since her appointment. [174236]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Minister for the East of England, my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage has met chief executives and leaders from local authorities as part of a programme of regional visits. My hon. Friend has also held a wide range of meetings and discussions with the Regional Development Agency, Regional Assembly, Learning Skills Council and Civil Servants. The Regional Minister has also undertaken high profile press events to understand the impact of Avian Influenza and the response to the Coastal Surge that affected the region. Engagements include the following:

| | *Engagement* |
|---|---|
| 26 July 2007 | Meeting chief executives and key stakeholder to introduce Regional Minister Role |
| 3 September 2007 | Visit to EEDA to discuss Regional Minister priorities |
| 10 September 2007 | Visit to EERA and then Ipswich to meet chief executives and leaders |
| 17 September 2007 | Meeting with Norfolk chief executives and leaders |
| 28 September 2007 | Chairing Regional Partnership Group |
| 1 October 2007 | Speaking at the LAA Launch Event |
| 11 October 2007 | Attending Greater South East Reception |
| 26 October 2007 | Attending Forum to meet with business leaders and my hon. Friend the Member for Waveney |
| 6 November 2007 | Attending EEDA's Destination Growth Event to meet key businesses |
| 9 November 2007 | Following Tidal Surge, visit to Yarmouth and Lowestoft with my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government |
| 12 November 2007 | Meeting with the East of England Business Group |
| 12 November 2007 | Meeting with Regional Cities East |
| 16 November 2007 | First Government visit to Regional Operations Centre following outbreak of avian flu |
| 28 November 2007 | Attending event for Thames Gateway Delivery Plan Launch |
| 30 November 2007 | Attending the Rural Skills Conference, Peterborough |
| 3 December 2007 | Chairing the Regional Partnership Group |
| 10 December 2007 | Meeting with local authorities to discuss the growth agenda |
| 18 December 2007 | Chairing the first meeting of the Northstowe Liaison Group |

### Regional Government: South East Region

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose has been of each visit made by the Minister for the South East to (i) Kent, (ii) Sussex, (iii) Surrey, (iv) Hampshire, (v) the Isle of Wight, (vi) Oxfordshire, (vii) Buckinghamshire and (viii) Berkshire. [174656]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* My hon. Friend the Minister for the South East has undertaken a number of visits across the South East region as set out in the following table:[1]

| *County* | *Date of visit* | *Reason for visit* |
|---|---|---|
| (i) Kent | 8 August 2007 | To discuss impact of Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak |
| (i) Kent | 30 October 2007 | Volunteering Seminar |
| (i) Kent | 22 November 2007 | Fisheries visit plus visit to Pines Calyx. Sustainable venue and conference centre |
| (i) Kent | 23 November 2007 | Visit to IMPACT Competition day—Instant Muscle (charity) programme |
| (ii) Sussex | 30 July 2007 | Fisheries visit |
| (ii) Sussex | 25 November 2007 | UNISON Regional Policy Weekend |
| (ii) Sussex | 3 December 2007 | Visit arranged by SEEDA on skills theme |
| (iii) Surrey | 8 October 2007 | Visit to GOSE and meeting with SE Regional Development Agency and SE Regional Assembly to discuss priority issues for the region |
| (iii) Surrey | 8 October 2007 | Legislative programme consultation event |
| (iii) Surrey | 21 November 2007 | CBI Regional Council Meeting |
| (iv) Hants | 15 October 2007 | Visit to meet Partnership for Urban Hampshire |
| (iv) Hants | 12 November 2007 | Visit to New Forest National Park |
| (iv) Hants | 14 November 2007 | Regional Assembly Plenary Meeting |
| (vii) Bucks | 9 August 2007 | To discuss impact of Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak |
| (vii) Bucks | 16 October 2007 | To launch the South East Fresh Start Academy |
| (viii) Berks | 24 July 2007 | Floods recovery visit |
| (viii) Berks | 2 August 2007 | Floods recovery visit |

### Regional Planning and Development

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of local planning authorities have had the core strategies of their Local Development Framework approved by the Government; and what her Department's targets are in this regard. [173297]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As of 5 December 2007, 18 core strategies have been found sound at independent examination. This represents 5 per cent. of all local authorities in England.

The cross-governmental PSA no. 20 on Housing Supply has as its sixth indicator "Local Planning authorities to have adopted the necessary Development Plan Documents, in accordance with their Local Development Schemes, to bring forward developable land for housing in line with PPS3". The "national target" under this heading is "By March 2011, 80 per cent. of local planning authorities to have adopted the necessary Development Plan Documents, in accordance with their agreed Local Development Scheme". This is the Government's target.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for *(a)* panel reports on each of the regional spatial strategies to be delivered to her Department and *(b)* her response to each report. [174540]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The timetable (indicative) sets out the actual dates or anticipated dates when panel reports and the Secretary of State's proposed changes for the eight English RSSs will be published

1. Panel reports on the following draft RSSs have been published.

| | *Panel report* |
|---|---|
| North East | August 2006 |
| North West | May 2007 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | May 2007 |
| East Midlands | November 2007 |
| West Midlands Phase 1 | April 2007 |
| East of England | June 2006 |
| South East | August 2007 |

2. Panel reports on the following draft RSSs are expected.

| | *Panel report* |
|---|---|
| West Midlands Phase 2 | December 2008 |
| South West | January 2008 |

3. The proposed changes on the following draft RSSs have been published.

| | *Proposed changes* |
|---|---|
| North East | May 2007 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | September 2007 |
| West Midlands Phase 1 | September 2007 |
| East of England | December 2006 |

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[1] *[Official Report, 16 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 11MC.]*

4. The proposed changes on the following draft RSSs are expected.

| | *Proposed changes* |
|---|---|
| North West | January 2008 |
| East Midlands | May 2008 |
| West Midlands Phase 2 | February 2009 |
| South East | February 2008 |
| South West | May 2008 |

The Secretary of State considers the recommendations in the panel report and representations made on the draft RSS before publishing proposed changes, which are then subject to further consultation before being finalised.

### Regional Planning and Development: Greenbelt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of dwellings that will be built on land *(a)* designated and *(b)* previously designated as green belt in (i) 2007 and (ii) each year under the proposed regional spatial strategies. [171500]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information on how many dwellings may be built on designated or previously-designated green belt land is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, decisions about the use of land which is designated as green belt, or whether land should be designated as green belt, must be taken in accordance with the policy in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 on green belts. This policy has performed an important role in preventing urban sprawl and protecting the countryside for 50 years. The Government remain committed to current green belt policy and has no intention of making fundamental changes to the policy. The Government are also committed to building at least 60 per cent. of new dwellings on previously-developed ("brownfield") land. In 2006 74 per cent. of new dwellings were built on previously-developed land, compared to 56 per cent. in 1997.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for which regulators and inspectorates her Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175314]

**Hazel Blears:** The Department sponsors the following 'independent regulators' as identified by the Better Regulation Task Force in their report published on 1 October 2003: the Architects Registration Board, the Audit Commission, the Housing Corporation and the Standards Board for England. Details of these bodies' funding from Government and gross expenditure is set out in Cabinet Office's annual 'Public Bodies' directory and on the Department's website for 2007 at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/publicbodies2007

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) is an executive agency of this Department. PINS' annual report and accounts can be found at:

http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk

### Repairs and Maintenance: Finance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average annual real terms change in the 2008-09 management and maintenance allowance would be required for the average allowance in England to reach the real terms level of management and maintenance expenditure set out in the estimate of the Need to Spend on Maintenance and Management in Local Authority Housing, published in June 2003 by 2010-11. [163509]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department has not produced any sufficiently robust estimates of what average annual real terms change in the 2008-09 management and maintenance allowance would be required for the average allowance in England to reach, by the Decent Homes target year 2010-11, the real terms level of management and maintenance expenditure set out in the estimate of the Need to Spend on Maintenance and Management in Local Authority Housing published in June 2003, but intends to undertake rigorous analysis on management and maintenance needed to be spent as part of the review of the HRA subsidy system.

### Rough Sleepers

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent in each district/unitary authority in England on rough sleepers by *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local authorities in each of the last five years. [170359]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Since 2003-04, the majority of our homelessness grants are allocated to local authorities to support them in their work on tackling and preventing homelessness effectively which includes rough sleeping. Previous to that time the majority of funding was allocated direct to the voluntary sector. We do however continue to provide homelessness funding direct to some voluntary organisations, where appropriate.

All local authority homelessness grants are allocated to individual councils and it is for them to determine how they spend this grant.

The Supporting People Programme, which came into effect on 1 April 2003, allocates grant to administering authorities whom, in accordance with Supporting People grant conditions, decide how they spend this grant based on their knowledge of local need.

The following table indicates the total amount of revenue funding allocated to local authorities and the voluntary sector to tackle homelessness in each of the five years. The individual local authority homelessness grant allocations are available in the Library of the House.

*Homelessness grant for local authorities and voluntary sector*

| | Total (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 70.9 |
| 2004-05 | 60.6 |
| 2005-06 | 59.5 |
| 2006-07 | 67.0 |
| 2007-08 | 74.0 |

I have deposited in the Library of the House a table of the revenue funding administrative authorities spent on rough sleeping under the Supporting People Programme.

On 5 December, we announced homelessness grant funding of at least £150 million over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to continue to support local authorities to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area. This a 6 per cent. increase on the current year.

In addition to the homelessness grants, £90 million has been made available to authorities under the Hostels Capital Improvement Programme in the last three years to improve hostels and day centres used by rough sleepers. We announced a new £70 million three year Places of Change Programme on 13 November which builds upon the success of the £90 million 2005-08 Hostels Capital Improvement Programme.

### Smoking

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff have been disciplined for breaching the public smoking ban on her Department's premises, and the premises of its agencies, since its coming into force. [173303]

**Mr. Dhanda:** No Department for Communities and Local Government staff or Ministers have been disciplined for breaching the public smoking ban on departmental or departmental agency premises.

### Social Services: Elderly

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authority social services departments on the acceptability of strip washing for elderly people where disabled facility grants cannot cover all of the demands for shower and other adaptations; and if she will make a statement. [173246]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In November 2004 Communities and Local Government issued "Delivering Housing Adaptations for Disabled People: A Good Practice Guide". The guidance advises that the provision of a lavatory and washing, bathing and showering facilities have been separated in order to clarify that a disabled or elderly person should have access to a washbasin, a WC and a shower or bath (or if more appropriate, both a shower and a bath) (The Housing Grants Construction and Renewal Act, chapter 53, part 1, section 23(1) (e) to (g)). Therefore a disabled facilities grant should be given to provide a disabled or older person with each of these facilities. The grant is subject to an assessment of the person's needs and a means test.

Chapter 5 of CLG's guidance covers the assessment of need for adaptations, and refers to Department of Health guidance for general principles of assessment for social care for adults.

### Standards Board: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what yearly financial savings the Standards Board is expected to make from its relocation from London to Manchester. [173302]

**John Healey:** The Standards Board has identified that, as a consequence of its relocation from London to Manchester, savings will be made of £847,000 in 2008-09, £1,267,000 in 2009-10 and £1,353,000 thereafter.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department has had with representatives of trades unions in the last 12 months. [173324]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Details of meetings between Ministers and outside interest groups, including trade unions, are provided on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedom-of-information/Disclosure-iog/

### Urban Areas: Recreation Spaces

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department provides on how much public green space should be available per head of population in urban areas. [174715]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Guidance on the provision of public green space is set out in planning policy guidance note 17 (PPG17) "Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation" (2002). Government policy is that open space standards, including standards for public green space as well as other types of open space, should be set locally since prescriptive national standards cannot cater for local circumstances such as differing demographic profiles and the extent of existing built development in an area. Local planning authorities should therefore undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for all forms of open space, sports and recreational facilities and audits of their existing open space and facilities. These can then be used to set appropriate local standards in development plans. Guidance on undertaking assessments and audits and deriving local standards is set out in "Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17", published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2002.

### Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to introduce the EU's Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas funding mechanism in England. [171587]

**John Healey:** My Department would support use of the Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas (JESSICA) instrument in English regions where regional partners wish to use European Regional Development Fund resources innovatively.

The regional development agencies have all made provision for its use over the 2007-13 spending period. But it is too early to expect finished proposals and there remain a number of questions about the application of JESSICA. EU member states are working with the European Commission and European Investment Bank (EIB) to clarify these questions, including through discussion of specific RDA proposals. For example, the EIB has, by agreement, commissioned a feasibility study for London.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will publish the criteria she will use to assess which proposals for eco-towns will be taken forward. [173872]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 882W, to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten).

### Valuation Office Agency

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* presentation and *(b)* handouts, produced by the Valuation Office Agency on Automated Valuation Models presented at the National Rating Day in June. [173321]

**John Healey:** I have deposited a copy of the presentation, which was also provided as a handout, in the Library of the House.

### Voluntary Organisations: Finance

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's budget has been for supporting voluntary community organisations in each of the last five years. [173472]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The total departmental budget comprises support from specific programmes in addition to support through generic schemes such as the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Supporting People. The level of support through these programmes for the voluntary and community sector is not held centrally. We are working with the Office of the Third Sector to improve reporting on this funding support as part of the comprehensive spending review commitment to produce an annual report to Parliament.

We estimate that our specific funding programmes for the voluntary and community sector over the last five years have provided support totalling:

| | *Estimated total (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 21.5 |
| 2004-05 | 26.5 |
| 2005-06 | 29.5 |
| 2006-07 | 32.5 |
| 2007-08 | 29.5 |

### Water Supply: Safety

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in her Department's plans to improve hot water safety by reviewing Part G of the Building Regulations. [172973]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Since announcing our intention in June 2007 to review the scope for improving all aspects of hot water safety in Part G of the Building Regulations we have held meetings with key stakeholders in London, Taunton and Doncaster and have held the first meeting of a Building Regulations Advisory Committee Working Group. This group includes experts on hot water systems and will advise on how new requirements can best be introduced and on the content of the accompanying guidance (the Approved Document). We expect to launch a full public consultation on the draft amendments to the Building Regulations and the revised supporting guidance in spring 2008 with a view to fully implementing the new requirements in April 2009.

### Young People

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by her Department and its predecessors *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by her Department. [171279]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The numbers of individuals aged between 16 and 18 employed by the Department in each complete year since the formation of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May 2002 are given in the following table.

*Number of 16 to 18-year-olds joining the Department*

| | *(a) directly* | *(b) through a recruitment agency* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 0 | 3 |
| 2005 | 1 | 0 |
| 2004 | 1 | 0 |
| 2003 | 2 | 0 |

On joining the Department all new entrants have an induction meeting at which they are told about the corporately funded training that is offered such as the welcome event. In addition each directorate holds a training budget and line managers take responsibility to ensure that their staff receive training in order to carry out their tasks and for developmental purposes.

### Youth Services: Finance

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of double-damping on funding for children and young adult services in the City of Sunderland; and if she will make a statement. [173561]

**John Healey:** In the course of this summer's consultation on options for changing the Formula Grant distribution system, we published illustrations of what each council's level of grant in 2007-08 would have been if neither grant floor damping nor social services formula damping had been applied. This illustration showed Sunderland's grant would have been 2.4 per cent. higher, in the absence of formula damping but before overall grant floors damping.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what studies have been completed by the Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit into the UK reconstruction in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [174174]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I have been asked to reply.

The Stabilisation Unit, formerly known as the Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit (PCRU), has completed two studies focused on the UK reconstruction in Afghanistan and Iraq. In November 2006, the Unit led a review of the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Helmand and Basra. In August 2007, the Unit undertook a case study review of the planning for and execution of the Helmand PRT deployment.

### Africa: Security

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are under consideration to improve the security situation in the north west region of the Central African Republic and Chad. [173700]

**Meg Munn:** We are very concerned about the continuing security and humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic and Chad. In response the UK co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007), which authorises the deployment of a European security and defence police force and a UN multidimensional mission to Chad and the north-east of the Central African Republic. The overall aim of the joint operation is to create the conditions necessary for voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons. The mission is planned to deploy in early 2008.

The UK has also supported the extension of the mandate of the UN Peace-Building Office in the Central African Republic. Its aim is to assist the government of the Central African Republic in consolidating peace and national reconciliation and strengthening democratic institutions. In addition, the UK supports the multinational force of Central Africa which has bases in the north-west of the Central African Republic and whose mandate is to contribute to the restoration of peace and security in the Central African Republic.

In the medium term, a national security seminar on the Central African Republic, organised by the government of the Central African Republic and the UN Development Programme, is due to be held in March 2008. We hope this will set out a road-map for security sector reform, including of the police, army and prisons. The EU will then play an important role in co-ordinating the agreed reforms.

### Aviation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result. [172237]

**Meg Munn:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for International Development and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005, and in the case of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to the calendar year 2004.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http:www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many air miles were travelled by *(a)* him and *(b)* Ministers in his Department on short haul flights over the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172456]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (UIN 172237).

### Bangladesh: Entry Clearances

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the working holidaymaker scheme is available to applicants from Bangladesh. [175375]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The working holidaymaker scheme is available to applicants from Bangladesh, having been re-introduced on 1 August 2007, following a temporary suspension.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requirements for medical screening are being applied to visa applicants from Bangladesh. [175402]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Applicants from certain countries, including Bangladesh, applying for a visa with more than six months validity, now require a certificate to show that they are free from infectious pulmonary tuberculosis (TB).

Certificates are not required for children under 11-years-old, diplomats and their families, this exemption does not include other members of diplomats' households such as domestic staff, or returning residents.

### Burma: Constitutions

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has made to the Burmese authorities on the inclusion of members of the opposition and other democratic and ethnic minority leaders in the process of drafting a national constitution. [173701]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and I have repeatedly made clear our support for Aung San Suu Kyi's statement of 8 November calling for a genuine national reconciliation including the military, opposition parties and ethnic groups in Burma.

I underlined this point in my speech to the European Union/Association of South East Asian Nations Summit of 22 November, at which Burma was represented.

Our ambassador in Rangoon regularly presses the case for progress on democratic change in Burma. His most recent representation to the Burmese Foreign Ministry was on 11 December.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174969]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Parliamentary Relations Team consists of 11 officials. The team, managed by a head and deputy head, is split into two sections, 'Floor of the House' section, five officials, and 'Select Committee' section, four officials. Parliamentary questions are estimated to take up 75 per cent. of the floor of the house section.

A separate Ministerial Support Unit, 13 officials, deals with correspondence from hon. Members, Peers and members of the public.

### Detainees

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in other Council of Europe member states on the Secretary-General's proposals on secret detention and detainee transfers; what his position is on the future discussion of these proposals by the Committee of Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [175401]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Discussions in the Committee of Ministers and between delegations to the Council of Europe on the Secretary-General's recommendations are ongoing. However, the Government believe that domestic legislation and international legal instruments already exist to deal satisfactorily with the concerns he has raised.

### Diplomatic Service

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether plans have been developed for future closures of *(a)* embassies, *(b)* consulates and *(c)* British High Commissions in the financial years (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [174792]

**David Miliband:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no plans to close any Posts in the financial years 2008-09 to 2011-12.

We continue to manage the FCO's overseas network to reflect changing demands and challenges, ensuring that our resources are aligned with our priorities, and that the UK has a cost-effective and flexible network of overseas representation.

### EU Reform: Treaties

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the latest dates are by which each member state is required to ratify the draft EU Reform Treaty, according to their constitutional requirements, to allow it to enter into force by June 2009. [167067]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The Lisbon treaty will enter into force on the first day of the month following the deposit of the instrument of ratification by the last signatory state to take this step, and not before 1 January 2009.

### Instrument of Pre-Accession

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 567-8W, on The Instrument of Pre-Accession, what criteria have been used in determining the level of financial assistance allocated within the Instrument to *(a)* Bosnia-Herzegovina, *(b)* Serbia and *(c)* Croatia in each financial year from 2007 to 2010. [175494]

**Mr. Thomas:** I have been asked to reply.

The criteria used in allocating funding under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) include:

The Commission's commitment to ensure that no country will receive less funding under IPA in 2007 than they did in 2006 under previous instruments;

Capacity of the beneficiary government to absorb the funding allocated, including implementation of the necessary systems for management of funds; and

Per capita allocations.

For pre-candidate countries in the Western Balkans such as Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the allocations will increase to reach €23 per capita (in 2004 prices) by 2010. As candidate countries, Croatia and Macedonia will receive at least €30 per capita by 2008.

Further detail on the allocations and the criteria used is set out in the 2009-11 Multi-Annual Indicative Financial Framework, which is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2007/nov/mifF_en.pdf

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 562W, on Iran: nuclear power, what decisions have been made about the publication of the report by the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy on discussions with Iran. [172278]

**David Miliband:** Javier Solana made clear to the media following his discussions with Sa'id Jalili, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, that he had been disappointed with his discussions. A representative of Dr. Solana reported orally to E3 plus 3 Political Directors on his behalf on 1 December, and confirmed that he was not able to conclude that his talks had led to a "positive outcome", which was the test set in the statement from E3 plus 3 Foreign Ministers in New York on 28 September 2007. Dr. Solana does not plan to submit a written report.

### Iran: USA

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of violations of Iranian airspace by US airforce fighter jets around Khorramshahr on 13 November; and if he will make a statement. [175392]

**Dr. Howells:** We have not received any reports of violations of Iranian airspace by US fighter jets around Khorramshahr on 13 November, although we are aware of media reports that similar incidents occurred twice in 2004.

### Iraq Neighbours Conference

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1054-55W, on Iraq Neighbours Conference, whether dates have been set for the next meeting of the working groups on *(a)* energy, *(b)* security and *(c)* refugees. [172787]

**David Miliband:** Dates have not yet been set for the next meetings of the Iraq Neighbours Working Groups.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will provide a substantive response to the letter of 30 October 2007 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on the EU Treaty. [175488]

**Meg Munn:** I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member. A reply was sent on 18 December.

### Palestinians: West Bank

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on Palestinians of the restrictions on movement within the West Bank. [175400]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The ability of Palestinians to move within the west bank has deteriorated due to continued or increased use of: checkpoints; curfews; roadblocks; a permit system; and the barrier. Permit and checkpoint restrictions have isolated residents of the west bank from East Jerusalem and from each other. In September 2007, the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that 563 obstacles were present in the west bank.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised our concerns about movement and access issues with his Israeli interlocutors during his recent visit to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories from 17 to 19 November. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development also raised our concerns on this issue during his meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak in Israel on 10 December.

The implementation of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access stalled following the election of Hamas in January 2006. We continue to call on both parties to implement the agreement. We have repeatedly raised our concerns about movement and access issues with the Government of Israel.

### Papua: Human Rights

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Indonesian government on the seven West Papuans arrested for raising the Morning Star flag in the Catholic church compound at Kwamki Baru village, Timika, West Papua on 1st December; and if he will make a statement. [175378]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made representations on this case. Flying the Papuan national "Morning Star" flag is currently illegal under Indonesian law. Special Autonomy legislation allows for the use of Papuan symbols and anthems but the local legislation that is required to confirm the chosen symbols and anthems has yet to be passed. The UK supports the territorial integrity of Indonesia and therefore does not support independence for Papua.

### Papua: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in West Papua, with particular reference to *(a)* human rights, *(b)* press freedom and *(c)* the independence of the judiciary there. [175377]

**Meg Munn:** We are aware of reports of human rights abuses in Papua, but the isolated nature of some areas of Papua makes it difficult to establish a clear picture. However, we investigate any credible reports of human rights abuses in Papua. Our Embassy in Jakarta regularly discusses human rights issues, including in Papua, with the Indonesian government.

We encourage the Indonesian Government to allow access to Papua for the media. We were therefore pleased that the BBC correspondent based in Jakarta was given permission to visit Papua in September this year. We will continue to press the authorities to permit other journalists to visit. We recognise that, overall, Indonesia has a flourishing free media and an increasingly liberal and plural political environment.

We have a general concern about corruption in Indonesia, particularly in the judiciary. The Indonesian government is committed to addressing the issue and has made some progress in tackling the problem. In December 2003, it established the Corruption Eradication Commission to investigate and tackle corruption past and present. We continue to work with the Indonesian government in order to promote good governance.

### Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what specific processes the Government are proposing to ensure that reconstruction follows peacekeeping as referred to in the Prime Minister's Mansion House speech of 12 November; and how these proposals will be taken forward. [166137]

**David Miliband:** For reconstruction to follow peacekeeping, UN peace support operations need to be more integrated. UN bodies and other international agencies need to work towards common strategic interests and behind a common operations plan. The Peacebuilding Commission was established in 2005 as an advisory body to direct this integrated approach. The UK plays a key role in it. The international community also needs to have the right capabilities at its disposal and the procedure and funding in place to be able to deploy them quickly. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister proposed as a starting point that UN Security Council Resolutions should not just mandate and direct the peacekeeping response to a given conflict, but also the longer term peace-building effort. He also proposed enhancing international capacity through a standby mechanism to deploy civilian reconstruction experts quickly.

### Peacekeeping Operations: Private Sector

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to bring forward legislation to regulate the private military and security company industry; and if he will make a statement. [169977]

**David Miliband:** In late 2004 the then Foreign Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) launched a review of the options for the regulation of the overseas operations of private military and security companies (PMSCs) registered in or operating from the United Kingdom. This was to follow up on the Green Paper of 2002, 'Private Military Companies: Options for Regulation' and to respond to the increase in activities of PMSCs in areas of conflict overseas.

The review was completed in mid 2005 and suggested a number of ways in which the industry could be regulated. The review also highlighted complex issues, particularly round the definition of what activities should be regulated and how any regulations would be enforced. These issues, along with the options for regulation, continue to be the subject of ministerial correspondence and official consultation. The Government have undertaken to keep Parliament fully informed of its proposals in this area. If it is agreed that regulation is appropriate, the Government will put the proposals to public consultation.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what rules govern the use of force by private military security companies employed by the Government; whether these rules are standardised for all Government contracts or are variable on a case-by-case basis; and if he will make a statement. [169978]

**David Miliband:** Private military and security companies employed by the Government operate according to strict rules of engagement and security operating procedures. The details of these rules of engagement, which are embedded within the contracts between the Government and the contractors involved, are kept undisclosed due to their sensitive nature, as public disclosure could be detrimental to operational security. In addition, Annex A to Coalition Provisional Authority Memorandum Number 17 (available in the Library of the House) sets out binding rules on the use of force which apply to all private security companies in Iraq, which form part of their security operating procedures.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1059-60W, on peacekeeping operations: private sector, whether his Department has concluded a formal study of the services provided to the Government by private military security companies in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [172786]

**David Miliband:** The implementation of the procedures for individual contracts is monitored closely and subject to revision when appropriate. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) reviews areas of its work in which private military and security companies (PMSCs) are involved in. Given the range of PMSC contracts, the FCO has not conducted a formal study grouping all such contracts together.

### Russia: CFE Treaty

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of Russia's decision to suspend the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty; whether he has discussed this issue with *(a)* Russian and *(b)* US counterparts; and if he will make a statement. [168394]

**David Miliband:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 13 December, *Official Report*, columns 57-58WS, about Russia's "suspension" of its obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty. We believe the concerns expressed by Russia would be addressed by entry into force of the adapted CFE treaty. We have pursued constructive proposals for parallel action by states parties, including North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies and Russia, to overcome the outstanding issues related to ratification of the adapted treaty. Along with our NATO allies, we will continue to promote engagement with Russia to that end.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the Russian decision to suspend its participation in the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe as of 12 December. [172389]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 57-58WS.

### Russia: Elections

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his Russian counterpart on the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' ability to observe the upcoming presidential election in that country, in April 2008, without restrictions and in accordance with established practice. [172388]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government strongly encourage the Russian Federation to invite the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) election observers to the March presidential election without restrictions. I made the following statement at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) ministerial meeting in Madrid on 29 to 30 November, which Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov attended.

> "We hope that all states will honour their commitments and enable ODIHR to observe upcoming elections in full accordance with OSCE commitments and established practice, including by enabling long term observation if ODIHR judges that to be appropriate".

The presidency of the EU made a statement on behalf of all EU member states on the same lines.

### Russia: Moldova

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the progress by Russia towards commitments made at the 1999 Istanbul summit of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe for withdrawal of Russian military forces from Moldova and Georgia. [172386]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Russian Federation recently completed its withdrawal from the bases at Batumi and Akhalk'alak'i in Georgia. Only the status and future use of the Gudauta base remain unresolved. In Moldova, however, there has been no progress since 2004 on the withdrawal of remaining Russian Federation forces and ammunition from Transnistria.

The written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 57-58WS made clear that, with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies, we look to the Russian Federation to regularise the status of its remaining forces in Moldova and Georgia. The principle that host nation consent is required for the stationing of foreign forces is central to European security. With NATO allies, we continue to promote engagement with the Russian Federation with a view to reaching an agreed way forward.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what decisions were reached at the EU-Africa summit on the deployment of the joint AU-UN force to Darfur; which African countries have offered to contribute troops to the force; what the African Union's position is on whether non-African troops are required to provide an effective peacekeeping force; and if he will make a statement. [174894]

**Meg Munn:** Representatives of the Government of Sudan and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations discussed the African Union (AU)/UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) deployment at the EU-Africa summit in Lisbon on 8 December. The press statement released after the meeting noted that both sides agreed on the importance of the full and timely implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1769 and agreed to continue their discussions to resolve outstanding issues. Follow-up talks have taken place in Khartoum and we are awaiting a report from the UN on their outcome. Meanwhile, we have continued to press the Government of Sudan to co-operate fully with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and AU on UNAMID deployment.

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations received offers of troops from a number of African countries and has conducted pre-deployment assessments. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations has not yet announced the final force composition of UNAMID. The AU and UN agreed that UNAMID should be 'predominantly African' in character. This allows for non-African troop contributions, particularly where specific capabilities are required. We are pressing the AU and UN to choose the best troops for the mission, irrespective of nationality.

### Uganda: Elections

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the European Union are taking to implement the recommendations of the European Union and Commonwealth Election Observers in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [174896]

**Meg Munn:** The Government have been actively involved in efforts to bring about improvements to Uganda's democratic system. The UK is the largest donor to the Deepening Democracy Programme basket-fund and currently chairs its Steering Committee. The programme forms the cornerstone of international donors' (Partners for Democracy Group—PDG) efforts to address failings in the democratic processes of Uganda. The PDG, which has a wide-ranging membership, including resident EU ambassadors, actively raises governance and democracy concerns at a high level with the Government of Uganda. The European Union recently supported a Ugandan Parliament-led workshop to address reforms recommended by the European Union and Commonwealth Election Observers following the 2006 Ugandan elections.

### Zimbabwe: Sanctions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether at the recent EU-Africa summit the African Union proposed the EU end all sanctions against Zimbabwe as a condition for signing new trade deals; and if he will make a statement. [174895]

**Meg Munn:** No such proposal was made.

It is the responsibility of EU member states to consider the lifting of sanctions in their working groups in Brussels. These meetings focus on whether the lift criteria laid down in the common position has been met. Zimbabwe is still a long way from meeting these lift criteria.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bank accounts are affected by economic sanctions on Zimbabwe. [175154]

**Meg Munn:** 43 bank accounts in the UK are frozen under EU targeted measures against the Zimbabwe regime. EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the bank accounts they have frozen.

## HEALTH

### Lucentis

11. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued on the prescribing of Lucentis; and if he will make a statement. [174620]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have not issued any guidance on the prescribing of Lucentis.

Lucentis is licensed for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration and there are no national restrictions on the prescribing of this drug within its licensed indications.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising Lucentis and Macugen for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration and expects to publish final guidance in the new year.

In the absence of NICE guidance, primary care trusts are expected to make their own decisions on the funding of specific treatments based on an assessment of the available evidence.

### Prescription Charges Exemption: Cystic Fibrosis

12. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will exempt from prescription charges people with cystic fibrosis. [174621]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We will be inviting views shortly on options for possible changes to prescription charges in England that are cost neutral to the national health service.

### Hospitals: Cleaning

13. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to make hospitals cleaner since 1997. [174622]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Plan in 2000 set hospital cleanliness as one of the top ten issues for the NHS; investment and initiatives since then have meant that spend on cleaning by the NHS has increased by over £250 million to £662 million in 2006-07. Hospital cleanliness remains of utmost importance for the Government, and this is reflected by its inclusion as a national priority for the NHS in the Operating Framework for 2008-09. In addition, this year every hospital will undergo a deep clean, supported by £57 million of investment by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

### Cardiac Rehabilitation

14. **Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects that cardiac rehabilitation will be offered to at least 85 per cent. of heart attack and re-vascularisation patients in accordance with the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease 2000. [174624]

**Ann Keen:** Chapter Seven of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease issued appropriate guidance to the national health services regarding the provision of cardiac rehabilitation services. Implementation of this guidance is a matter for the local NHS, working in partnership with stakeholders and the local community. It is for NHS organisations to plan and develop services based on their specific local knowledge and expertise.

### Social Care: Long-Term Funding

15. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future long-term funding of the social care system. [174625]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** At the pre-Budget report 2007, the Government announced that it would be producing a Green Paper on "Reforming the Care and Support System".

The Green Paper is an opportunity to develop a new offer focusing on people who use services, giving individuals more personal choice and control.

### Stroke Services

16. **Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve early access to stroke services. [174626]

**Ann Keen:** On 5 December the Department launched a new strategy for stroke services in England which sets a vision for transforming stroke care.

The strategy aims to accelerate the emergency response to stroke, by setting out a framework for care of stroke patients, and raising awareness about symptoms and risk factors. By following the guidelines, up to 6,800 deaths and cases of disability could be avoided. A further 1,600 strokes could be averted through preventative work.

### Health Inequalities

18. **Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce health inequalities in England. [174628]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government's health inequalities strategy 'Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action', supports the 2010 national health inequalities targets for infant mortality and life expectancy at birth, and long-term, sustainable, reductions in health inequalities. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced, in September 2007, a comprehensive strategy for reducing health inequalities which will be published in 2008.

### Primary Care Trusts: Rural Proofing

19. **Mr. Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that rural proofing is carried out by primary care trusts in rural areas. [174629]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Primary care trusts (PCTs), together with local authorities (LAs), are responsible for ensuring that priorities are delivered in a way that ensures equity of service provision when commissioning services for their local area. This includes taking into account rural issues where appropriate.

### Smoking Ban: Effectiveness

20. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the ban on smoking in public places for public health. [174630]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have commissioned research on the health impacts of smokefree legislation in England. However, early assessments are that this legislation is proving to be effective in significantly reducing levels of second hand smoke in enclosed public places and workplaces.

Research from Scotland has reported a range of benefits since smokefree legislation was introduced there, including dramatic improvements in air quality in pubs, improved health, reduced tobacco consumption and no increase in the amount of smoking in the home.

### Patient Satisfaction

21. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has commissioned into levels of patient satisfaction with the NHS. [174631]

**Ann Keen:** The Government have one of the world's most comprehensive programmes of patient surveys, including the national patient survey, GP patient survey, Choice survey and NHS staff survey. This research tells us what people think about the care and treatment they have experienced, and is an essential part of improving services.

### Parliamentary Questions

22. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Westminster Hall debate of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 58-66WH, what steps he is taking to ensure that people in the East Midlands receive timely treatment for age-related macular degeneration. [174632]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has already recommended the use of photodynamic therapy for treating wet age-related macular degeneration in some patients, and all PCTs are funding this treatment in accordance with its guidance.

NICE is currently carrying out an appraisal of Lucentis and Macugen and expects to publish final guidance in the new year. NICE published draft guidance on 14 December which is now subject to consultation with stakeholders.

Where NICE has not issued guidance, PCTs are expected to make their own decisions on the funding of specific treatments based on an assessment of the available evidence.

East Midlands SHA reports that the East Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group has a region-wide policy in which there are guidelines on whether patients are eligible based on their visual acuity. Decisions on which patients will be funded for treatment are taken at individual PCT level.

### Ovarian Cancer

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to include ovarian cancer in the awareness and early diagnosis programme announced in the Cancer Reform Strategy. [174611]

**Ann Keen:** We are committed to reducing cancer deaths. Key to this is early diagnosis. As confirmed by the National Clinical Director for Cancer at the Britain against Cancer conference on 4 December, we will be including ovarian cancer in the national awareness and early diagnosis initiative described in the strategy.

### Liver Disease

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on a national plan for liver services; and if he will make a statement. [174627]

**Ann Keen:** We are concerned about the increasing incidence of and mortality from liver disease. We are investigating the possibility of developing a strategy for liver disease, which would cover health promotion as well as the full range of health services.

In working up proposals, officials have reviewed the available evidence and taken advice from a range of stakeholders. A number have referred to the National Plan for Liver Services produced in 2004 by professional bodies.

### Abortion

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has he *(a)* initiated and *(b)* evaluated on the practice of female foeticide. [172626]

**Dawn Primarolo:** None.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place a copy of the interim report produced by his Department on aspects of good practice for a model of future services for access to early abortion in the Library; to whom copies have been sent; at what cost; how much it cost to produce the report; and if he will make a statement; [174047]

(2) what plans he has to implement section 1(3A) of the Abortion Act 1967; what definition his Department uses of non-traditional settings for termination of pregnancy; what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the medical profession and *(b)* primary care trusts on implementation of this section; what follow-up care he proposes to make available to women who receive treatment under this section; and if he will make a statement. [174129]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Two hospitals are currently being funded by the Department to run early medical abortion services in non-traditional settings to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of provision in these settings.

The pilots will establish a clearly defined protocol, describing the elements required for the provision of a safe, early medical abortion service in a non-traditional setting, which will include the after care women should receive. A non-traditional setting is defined as any setting that is not a national health service hospital or an approved independent sector place.

On 24 October 2007 I stated in oral evidence to the Science and Technology Committee inquiry into scientific developments relating to the Abortion Act 1967 that the response from these two pilots will be published early next year. We will consider the results carefully before reaching a decision on what a non-traditional setting might be.

We have not had any discussions with the medical profession or primary care trusts and are still in the process of agreeing the people who will review the final evaluation report.

The total cost of the evaluation of the early medical abortion pilots over a two year period 2006-07 and 2007-08 was £94,335.42.

### Accidents: Eyesight

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the NHS arising from injuries which occur due to poor eyesight. [173073]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not collect data on the number of injuries caused by poor eyesight and has made no estimate of annual cost to the national health service. The Health Survey for England 2005 looked at falls in people aged 65 and over. The survey did not identify poor eyesight as a significant factor in falls.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England. [169377]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Since the publication of the 'Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England' (2004), a copy of which is available in the Library, significant progress has been made: of the 41 actions in the 2004 strategy, 26 have been delivered and a further 14 are under way. For example, an agreement between the Government and the alcohol industry to include unit content and daily guidelines advice on alcohol labels was announced in May 2007. In addition, levels of alcohol-related violent crime and offences and sales of alcohol to under-age drinkers have fallen.

In June 2007 the Government introduced a renewed alcohol strategy 'Safe, Sensible, Social', a copy of which is available in the Library, that included a summary review of the 2004 alcohol harm reduction strategy (Annex C). 'Safe, Sensible, Social' is a comprehensive strategy to tackle the health and social effects of harmful drinking across the board and focuses on 18 to 24-year-old binge drinkers, young people under 18 who drink alcohol and adult harmful drinkers.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals aged 11 to 18 years resident in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* Government region were treated for alcohol-related health problems in each of the last five years. [162535]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is in the following tables:

*All diagnoses count of finished admission episodes by London local authority district of residence for patients aged 11-18 for selected [1]alcohol related diseases, age at start of episode 11-18, national health service hospitals, England—2001-02 to 2005-06*

| *London local authority district of residence* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 7 | 19 | 25 | 13 | 28 |
| Barnet | 15 | 20 | 13 | 30 | 40 |
| Bexley | 11 | 15 | 37 | 38 | 41 |
| Brent | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 11 | 16 |
| Bromley | 9 | 11 | 36 | 35 | 50 |
| Camden | 11 | 11 | 16 | 17 | 29 |
| Croydon | 32 | 22 | 32 | 47 | 49 |
| Ealing | 23 | 21 | 29 | 18 | 23 |
| Enfield | 12 | 15 | 21 | 19 | 36 |
| Greenwich | 11 | 14 | 16 | 27 | 31 |
| Hackney | 9 | 9 | 11 | [illegible] | 21 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | [illegible] | 8 | 16 | 22 | 17 |
| Haringey | 10 | 15 | 8 | 15 | 24 |
| Harrow | 10 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 10 |
| Havering | 14 | 21 | 31 | 17 | 32 |
| Hillingdon | 20 | 11 | 31 | 42 | 43 |
| Hounslow | 15 | 10 | 17 | 16 | 42 |
| Islington | 8 | 23 | 23 | 17 | 22 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 7 | 7 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 13 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 29 | 28 | 35 | 28 | 31 |
| Lambeth | 20 | 15 | 11 | 26 | 21 |
| Lewisham | 9 | 14 | 22 | 16 | 25 |
| Merton | 13 | 21 | 29 | 26 | 29 |
| Newham | 9 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 7 |
| Redbridge | 14 | 18 | 16 | 17 | 22 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 15 | 17 | 20 | 18 | 27 |
| Southwark | 16 | 17 | 14 | 11 | 8 |
| Sutton | 37 | 49 | 38 | 38 | 36 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6 | 6 | 12 | 15 | 18 |
| Waltham Forest | 13 | 9 | 18 | 12 | 20 |
| Wandsworth | 18 | 28 | 20 | 20 | 28 |
| Westminster | [illegible] | [illegible] | 6 | 7 | 14 |
| London Local Authority District of Residence | | | | | |
| Total | 433 | 501 | 629 | 641 | 853 |

[1] Alcohol related diseases defined by the following ICD-10 codes:
F10: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70: Alcoholic liver disease
T51: Toxic effect of alcohol

*All diagnoses count of finished admission episodes by Government Office Region of residence for patients aged 11-18 for selected [1]alcohol related diseases, age at start of episode 11-18, NHS Hospitals, England 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| *Government Office Region of Residence* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 752 | 639 | 601 | 759 | 918 |
| Northwest | 1,500 | 1,484 | 1,706 | 1,985 | 2,330 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 917 | 865 | 966 | 1,012 | 1,068 |
| East Midlands | 622 | 547 | 576 | 659 | 705 |
| West Midlands | 785 | 732 | 906 | 908 | 1,190 |
| East of England | 549 | 530 | 613 | 648 | 627 |
| London | 433 | 501 | 631 | 646 | 855 |
| South East | 1,041 | 957 | 1,154 | 1,355 | 1,499 |
| Southwest | 666 | 683 | 865 | 909 | 1,148 |
| Scotland [2] | 5 | 10 | 11 | 4 | 14 |
| Wales[2] | 39 | 32 | 28 | 28 | 47 |
| Northern Ireland | 2 | | | 1 | 3 |
| Foreign in[2]c. Channel Isles and Isle of Man[2] | 11 | 12 | 16 | 18 | 20 |
| No fixed abode | 23 | 30 | 41 | 56 | 80 |
| Not known | 73 | 58 | 46 | 56 | 88 |
| England | 7,418 | 7,080 | 8,160 | 9,044 | 10,592 |

[1] Alcohol related diseases defined by the following ICD-10 codes:
F10: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70: Alcoholic liver disease
T51: Toxic effect of alcohol
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

## Ambulance Services: Cumbria

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects every ambulance serving South Lakeland to be equipped with a 12 lead electrocardiogram machine. [175388]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not held centrally.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the North West Ambulance Service expects to be able to provide at least one fully trained paramedic in addition to a driver on each ambulance serving the South Lakeland area. [175393]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally. However, the North West Ambulance Service Trust may be able to provide this information direct.

## Ankylosing Spondylitis: Medical Treatments

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what processes the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has in place to ensure that the issuing of final guidance on the two anti-TNF treatments for ankylosing spondylitis it has recommended is not affected by appeals relating to the one anti-TNF treatment in that class that was rejected; and if he will make a statement. [174062]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will not publish final guidance on adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis until any appeals it has received have been heard. The closing date for appeals was 23 November and no appeals have yet been announced.

Funding for licensed treatments should not be withheld because guidance from NICE is unavailable. In December 2006, we issued refreshed good practice guidance which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first becomes available.

## Arthritis

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished episodes of care there were for patients with a *(a)* primary diagnosis and *(b)* secondary diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997-98. [172909]

**Ann Keen:** The total finished consultant episodes for patient with a primary and secondary diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis are given in the following table.

| | *Total finished consultant episodes for primary diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis*[1] | *Total finished consultant episodes for primary and secondary diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 49,982 | 134,862 |
| 2004-05 | 49,402 | 122,275 |
| 2003-04 | 47,298 | 113,269 |
| 2002-03 | 42,232 | 103,220 |
| 2001-02 | 34,269 | 88,416 |
| 2000-01 | 33,445 | 85,341 |
| 1999-2000 | 35,531 | 86,211 |
| 1998-99 | 36,198 | 85,644 |
| 1997-98 | 34,125 | 80,717 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

## Biotechnology

**Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the Joint Formulary Committee on biotechnology medicines with respect to biosimilars; [173113]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential risk to human health from adverse drug reactions arising from the interchange of innovator biological medicines with biosimilar medicines; [173114]

(3) if he will recommend that the British National Formulary designate biotechnology medicines as caution advised until research data demonstrate that they pose no risk to human health; [173115]

(4) if he will direct the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to require biosimilar medicines to carry a warning symbol until research demonstrate that they pose no risk to human health; [173116]

(5) what guidance is issued to *(a)* clinicians and *(b)* pharmacists on (i) the potential substitution risks associated with switching from innovator biological medicines to biosimilar medicines and (ii) the role of clinician choice in the prescription and dispensing of innovator biological medicines and biosimilar medicines; [173117]

(6) if he will take steps to ensure that biopharmaceutical products are prescribed uniquely by brand name rather than by international nonproprietary name; [173118]

(7) what measures are in place to ensure it is clear which adverse drug reaction arises as a result of the administration of which biopharmaceutical product. [173119]

**Dawn Primarolo:** An article will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) bulletin Drug Safety Update in early January, which will remind prescribers that it is important to assign adverse drug reactions to a specific named product when reporting adverse reactions associated with biosimilar medicines. The European guidelines for marketing authorisation holders—Volume 9A of "The Rules Governing Medicinal Products in the European Union Guidelines on Pharmacovigilance for Medicinal Products for Human Use" is currently being updated to include the following text in relation to reporting of adverse reactions to biosimilar products:

> "For adverse reaction reports relating to biological products, the definite identification of the product with regard to its manufacturing is of particular importance. Therefore, Marketing Authorisation Holders should give advice to reporters to provide the (invented) name of the medicinal product and the batch number and should follow up the reports where this information is missing for completion."

A similar biological medicinal product (biosimilar) is one that is claimed to be similar to a reference biological medicinal product authorised in the European Union (EU). Because biosimilar medicines are not identical copies of reference products, subtle differences may exist which may make a difference to their effect or side effects when taken by patients. It is preferable, therefore, that when such products are prescribed they should be clearly identified and prescribed by brand name to ensure that patients receive the exact product prescribed and that their safety in use can be properly monitored.

The MHRA encourages companies who manufacture generic copies of biopharmaceutical products (known as "biosimilar products") to give them a brand name so that there is no possibility that the pharmacist can substitute another biosimilar product when dispensing the doctor's prescription.

MHRA has not issued a specific guideline to clinicians on substitution. All medicines, including biological medicines, should be prescribed by clinicians in accordance with the approved advice provided in the Summary of Product Characteristics which provides full information about the product, including its side effects and its use.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's Professional standards and guidance for the sale and supply of medicines provides advice to pharmacists on switching from innovator biological medicines to biosimilar medicines and states that, except in an emergency, a specifically named product should not be substituted by any other product without the approval of the patient or carer and the prescriber, and in the case of hospital drugs, the approval of the therapeutics committee, or in line with other similar locally agreed protocols.

All new medicines carry a black triangle symbol when they are first marketed in the United Kingdom. This denotes that the product is under intensive surveillance and this period usually lasts for two years in the first instance. All biosimilar products should also have in place at the time of licensing a full Risk Management Plan which describes what is known about the safety of a product and describes the activities required on behalf of the company to ensure that relevant safety information is collected in the post marketing period.

The British National Formulary (BNF) includes biotechnology medicines that are licensed in the UK. The BNF usually reflects the safety information contained within the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) that relates to the product. Biosimilar products will be designated "Black Triangle" medicines and will carry the black triangle symbol in the BNF.

The information contained in the BNF about a product can be different from information in the SPC when it is supported by reliable clinical evidence. The BNF takes advice on the information to include from expert clinical advisers and the BNF Joint Formulary Committee.

All biosimilar products are assessed for safety, and the safety data are compared with that of the innovator biological medicinal product to which similarity is claimed, prior to its authorisation. It is also mandatory for the applicant to submit an appropriate risk management plan at the time of initial marketing authorisation application, which is assessed to ensure that it demonstrates that adequate arrangements are made for continued safety evaluation.

### Breast Cancer: Humberside

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons breast screening waiting times in the Humberside breast screening area are beyond the three year target; and what plans there are to bring such waiting times within the target. [173439]

**Ann Keen:** The Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reports that in Humberside the age extension for breast screening, from 65 to 70 years, increased activity by over 30 per cent. As a result there has been an increase in the length of wait for breast screening locally.

The Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals Trust in partnership with the East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust is putting in place a number of actions to help improve the current situation. Details of these can be found in the trust's press release which has been issued. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

We take the issue of the 36-month standard between screens very seriously. That is why Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, wrote to the chief executives of all ten SHAs in England on 9 February 2007 highlighting the importance of maintaining the 36-month interval.

### Cancer: Prescriptions

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to provide free prescriptions for people with cancer in England. [171780]

**Dawn Primarolo:** People are entitled to free prescriptions in respect of a number of long-term medical conditions, if they hold a valid medical exemption certificate. Cancer is not one of these long-term conditions.

The Government's review of prescription charges will be inviting views shortly on options for changes to prescription charges that are cost neutral to the national health service.

### Cancer: Wigs

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure NHS provision of wigs for those people with cancer who have opted for private chemotherapy and whose treatment does not include such provision. [175282]

**Ann Keen:** No examination has been carried out centrally.

National health service wigs are provided on the basis of assessed clinical need regardless of whether the patient has received NHS or private treatment. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with other local stakeholders to assess the healthcare needs of the local population and commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of wigs.

### Care Homes: Complaints

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing an independent complaints body for self-funders and part-funders in care homes; [174971]

(2) what discussions he has had on the establishment of an independent complaints body for self-funders and part-funders in care homes. [175353]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** People who have their care part-funded by the local authority can complain through the local authority social services complaints procedure and, if they are dissatisfied with the outcome of their complaint, they can ask the Local Government Ombudsman to investigate.

The issues relating to complaints by self-funders in care homes are currently under consideration, but there has not yet been any assessment of or consultation about the various options that might be available.

### Care Homes: Foreign Workers

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of senior care workers from the Philippines working in care homes in England; and if he will make a statement. [174612]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not collected by the Department of Health.

### Childbirth

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births per whole-time equivalent NHS midwife there were in each year since 2001, broken down by primary care trust area. [171666]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows the numbers of births per midwife in each strategic health authority (SHA) area.

*National health service hospital and community health services: Births in England per qualified midwifery staff by SHA area as at 30 September each specified year*[1]

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 31 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 33 |
| *SHA area* | | | | | | |
| North East | 25 | 26 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 29 |
| North West | 25 | 24 | 26 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 30 | 29 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 33 |
| East Midlands | 32 | 34 | 36 | 37 | 37 | 40 |
| West Midlands | 29 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| East of England | 40 | 37 | 38 | 40 | 37 | 38 |
| London | 37 | 38 | 37 | 37 | 36 | 36 |
| South East | 37 | 36 | 37 | 36 | 36 | 37 |
| South Central | 36 | 34 | 37 | 38 | 40 | 43 |
| South West | 27 | 28 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 31 |

[1] Births are for each calendar year. Total births includes live and still births.

*Note:*

Figures are calculated on full-time equivalent numbers of midwives.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census. Annual Birth Statistics, Office for National Statistics.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish information his Department holds on the effects of diet *(a)* before and *(b)* during pregnancy on the birth weight of babies. [172924]

**Ann Keen:** In 2000, the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy in their report "Scientific Review of the Welfare Food Scheme" recommended that improving the dietary intake of women of childbearing age has the potential to ensure that nutritional status at conception is adequate to support optimum fetal development.

Under the Healthy Start scheme, the Department currently provides nutritional support to low income and disadvantaged pregnant women and families with young children by offering vouchers to put towards the cost of buying milk, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables or infant formula at a participating retailer. Currently the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition—Subgroup on Maternal and Child Nutrition is reviewing the effect of early maternal, fetal and child nutrition on the development of disease in later life. The report is due to be published by end of next year.

## Childbirth: Finance

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of treating premature babies in the immediate post-natal period was in each of the last 10 years. [171936]

**Ann Keen:** We do not collect this information centrally.

## Chlamydia: Screening

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts are not reporting data on Chlamydia screening to the Health Protection Agency. [174055]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The primary care trusts (PCTs) not reporting data to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) at the end of September are given as follows. Although they have not reported screening figures to the HPA, screening has already commenced in some of these PCTs.

*PCT name*

Havering
Kingston
Bromley
Greenwich Teaching
Barnet
Hillingdon
Barking and Dagenham
Newham
Bassetlaw
Rotherham
Ealing
Barnsley
Croydon
Wandsworth
Shropshire County
Richmond and Twickenham
Sutton and Merton
Telford and Wrekin
Wolverhampton City
Derbyshire County
Derby City
Lincolnshire
Redbridge
Waltham Forest
Northamptonshire
Dudley
North East Essex
Oxfordshire
Wiltshire
Devon
Bexley
Sandwell

*Source:* HPA

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 11 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 705W, on Chlamydia infection: screening, what percentage of primary care trusts are participating in the Chlamydia screening programme in the latest period for which figures are available; and for what reasons *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Havering, *(c)* Hillingdon and *(d)* Sandwell had not submitted plans to the Health Protection Agency. [174056]

**Dawn Primarolo:** All primary care trusts (PCTs) now have a plan to start screening for Chlamydia, which have been submitted to the Heath Protection Agency.

Devon, Hillingdon and Sandwell PCTs are now screening and Hillingdon PCT are now in the process of setting up a screening office and plan to start full roll out in April 2008.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 996W, on Chlamydia screening, what steps he is planning to take to meet the 15 per cent. screening target. [173766]

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many screens for Chlamydia were reported to the Health Protection Agency in *(a)* the first quarter of 2007-08 and *(b)* the second quarter of 2007-08; and what proportion of the target screening population this represents in each case. [174005]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Strategic health authorities (SHAs) have submitted plans to the Department on how they intend reaching the target. The Department and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) are working with the primary care trusts (PCTs) who are finding the target challenging.

Information on the number of screens reported to the HPA is published in NHS Local Deliver Plan data monitoring line (PSA11d) (PCT) and (SHA) specific tables 1 April to 30 June and NHS Local Deliver Plan data monitoring line (PSA11d) PCT and SHA specific tables 1 July to 30 September, copies of which have been placed in the Library.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that implementation of the Chlamydia screening programme is included in the NHS operating framework. [174004]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The operating framework, published on 13 December, of which a copy is available in the Library and also at www.dh.gov.uk/operating framework, clarifies the health and services priorities for the year ahead.

In relation to Chlamydia screening, the document specifically states that organisations need to sustain and build on the achievements already made, including delivery of existing standards. As part of this, it lists out those existing commitments that will continue to be monitored, one of which is the implementation of the Chlamydia screening programme.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 546-7W, on Chlamydia: screening, when he plans to have developed a national template for a Chlamydia screening local enhanced service through the community pharmacy contractual framework; and on what date he plans to publish the final evaluation of the Boots Chlamydia screening pathfinder. [174051]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We expect to have a national template for a service specification for Chlamydia screening from community pharmacies available early in 2008, if primary care trusts wish to commission an enhanced service.

Two reports of the evaluation being undertaken by TNS Healthcare of the Boots Chlamydia pathfinder have already been published. They are Chlamydia screening evaluation—interim report wave one and Chlamydia screening evaluation—interim report wave two. Both reports are available in the Library. The third and final report will be published early in the new year.

## CJD: Blood

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies are underway to assess the prevalence and incidence of asymptomatic carriers of vCJD amongst the population; when he expects these studies to be completed; and whether such studies will contribute to his Department's consideration of whether to introduce prion filtration to prevent the risk of contracting vCJD through blood transfusion. [174469]

**Dawn Primarolo:** On behalf of the Department, the Health Protection Agency is currently conducting a study of tonsils to assess the sub-clinical prevalence of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (the National Anonymous Tonsil Archive, NATA), and is in the process of undertaking a feasibility pilot study of tissues from post mortems. The duration of NATA, which aims to select 100,000 tonsil pairs, is under continual review and depends upon the rate of accession of tonsils to the archive. Initial results from testing 45,000 tonsil pairs will be considered by the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) on 14 December 2007. The duration and completion date of the post mortem study are dependent upon the rate at which samples can be obtained from post mortems. In respect of prion filtration, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1298W.

## Commission for Social Care Inspection: Marketing

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's total budget was spent on publications and marketing in the last period for which figures are available. [172116]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are informed by the chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection that the proportion of its total budget spent in the most recent financial year—1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007—on publications and marketing was 0.5 per cent. and 0.2 per cent. respectively.

## Common Cold: Publicity

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department is spending on its Catch it, Bin it, Kill it campaign broken down by *(a)* financial year and *(b)* expenditure on (i) the launch event on 28 November, (ii) fees for producing the logo, name and other marketing materials, (iii) other fees to consultants, (iv) printing costs, (v) distribution costs, (vi) staff costs and (vii) other costs; [172460]

(2) which consultancy firms worked with his Department on its Catch it, Bin it, Kill it campaign; and when his Department started working with each firm; [172461]

(3) what assessment he has made of the impact of the launch event for his Department's Catch it, Bin it, Kill it campaign on 28 November; [172462]

(4) what the total cost to the public purse is of the Catch it, Bin it, Kill it campaign, announced by his Department on 28 November; and if he will make a statement. [174676]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Catch It, Bin It, Kill It campaign commenced on the 28 November with a wide range of activity, including public relations (PR), marketing and advertising. It will run through to March 2008.

The fees paid to consultancy firms and suppliers are commercial in confidence and it is not appropriate for us to reveal them. The total cost is approximately £609,000. For each item there is an element of consultancy fees included within the cost, which is broken down as follows:

the cost of advertising (including media) was £353,000;

media relations cost £112,000;

research costs were £92,000;

distribution costs will be around £48,000 and

the cost of printing 110,000 posters was £4,000.

It would not be appropriate to identify the staff cost associated with the campaign.

The Red Consultancy (PR Consultancy) was appointed to work on the Catch It PR campaign on 1 October 2007.

Pre-campaign evaluation was undertaken in September 2007. Post-campaign evaluation will be undertaken in March 2008.

## Community Nurses: Manpower

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community matrons were employed in Suffolk in each year since 2004; and how many were planned to be employed in each of those years. [174153]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information is not available in the format requested. Community matrons were not separately identifiable until the 2005 Census.

The following table shows community matrons in the Suffolk primary care trust area as at 30 September each specified year.

| *Suffolk PCT* | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 0 |
| 2006 | 2 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

## Dental Services

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1114-6W, on dental services, what plans his Department has to increase the number of NHS orthodontists in the East of England Strategic Health Authority area. [173571]

**Ann Keen:** It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to commission services, including orthodontics, to meet the needs of for the communities they serve.

## Dental Services: Waiting Lists

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents of Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency are on the Cumbria Primary Care Trust's waiting list for NHS dentistry services. [175387]

**Ann Keen:** Information on numbers of people on waiting lists for national health service dentistry services is not collected centrally.

## Dentistry: Finance

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in each deanery received funding under the National Co-ordinating Centre for Research Capacity Development's Walport scheme for *(a)* academic clinical fellowships and *(b)* academic clinical lectureships in each year since the scheme's inception; and what the figures represented as a proportion of the total number of clinicians that have received funding. [174213]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Academic clinical fellowships*

| *Deanery* | *Dental school* | *Programme name* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | Newcastle | Dental Clinical Specialties | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Newcastle | Dental Primary Care | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| North West | Manchester | Orthodontics and Oral Surgery | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| London | King's College | Oral Surgery | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | Orthodontics | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Queen Mary University of London | Restorative Dentistry | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Severn | Bristol | Dentistry (Restorative) | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of dentistry posts | | | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 |

*Academic clinical fellowships*

| *Deanery* | *Dental school* | *Programme name* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total number of ACF posts | | | 127 | 167 | 214 | 146 | 142 |
| Number of dentistry posts as percentage of total posts | | | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

*Clinical lectureships*

| *Deanery* | *Dental school* | *Programme name* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | Newcastle | Dental Clinical Specialties | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| North West | Manchester | Dentistry | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| London | King's College | Oral Surgery | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | University College London | Restorative Dentistry | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Queen Mary University of London | Dentistry: Restorative | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of dentistry posts | | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Total number of clinical lecturer posts | | | 81 | 102 | 93 | 72 | 72 | 13 |
| Number of dentistry posts as percentage of total posts | | | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 15 |

### Departmental Public Participation

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* citizens' juries, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other deliberative forms of public opinion research in each month since January 2006. [166586]

**Ann Keen:** Data from January 2006 on the cost of citizens' juries, focus groups and other deliberative forms of research undertaken by the Department are not readily available. Supplying the costs of all such research citizens' juries and focus groups would require a substantial investigation into all public engagement programmes undertaken by various divisions within the department and its arms length bodies, including the national health service, and would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the Department held nine citizens' juries around the future of the NHS in September 2007. Each jury cost £96.547.78, totalling £868,930.02.

### Dietary Supplements: Nutrition

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when Food Standards Agency officials proposed that Ministers from his Department should meet representatives of consumers of food supplements to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in such supplements; and for what reasons no date for such a meeting has been set; [169179]

(2) which member states of the European Union have indicated they will support the United Kingdom's objective for and approach to the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements; what progress has been made on achievement of the UK's objectives; and if he will make a statement; [169180]

(3) which Minister in his Department has responsibility for the achievement of his objectives for setting maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements; and what discussions that Minister has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* other EU member state governments on the matter. [169181]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Food Standards Agency (FSA) met with the Health Food Manufacturers' Association in August. The FSA met with the Commission on 12 Sept and also held a stakeholder event to discuss the orientation paper on 14 September in advance of the first Commission working group meeting with member states which took place on 24 September. Such proactive stakeholder engagement will continue. FSA gave advice to Ministers in connection with the CHC reception held in October 2007.

Good progress has been made in promoting work carried out in the United Kingdom in establishing upper levels for vitamins and minerals and reference has been made to this in an orientation paper on setting maximum levels which was the starting point for Commission working group discussions which began on 24 September 2007.

We have been advised by the FSA that general discussions on the orientation paper in the working group revealed that while member states support the broad objective of setting of maximum levels on the basis of safety and science, many are yet to establish views on a range of issues and as such are not in a position to support any specific approach at such an early stage in the discussions.

Ministerial responsibility for matters relating to food supplements, including the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in these products, rests with me. No recent meetings have been held between Health Ministers and the European Commission or with other European Union member state governments on this matter.

### Doctors

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors graduated in England in each year since 1997; how many NHS vacancies there were for these doctors in each year; how many GP posts became available in each year; and how many foreign national doctors began employment in the UK in each year. [170617]

**Ann Keen:** The following table provides information for how many doctors graduated in England from 1997.

*Table 1. Medical school output in England 1997-98-2006-07*

| *Academic year* | *Graduate output* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 3,261 |
| 1998-99 | 3,097 |
| 1999-2000 | 3,373 |
| 2000-01 | 3,286 |
| 2001-02 | 3,280 |
| 2002-03 | 3,522 |
| 2003-04 | 3,734 |
| 2004-05 | 3,935 |
| 2005-06 | 4,376 |
| 2006-07 | 4,904 |

*Source*
Higher Education Funding Council for England

The number of foreign national doctors commencing work each year in the United Kingdom, the number of national health service vacancies for these doctors and the number of general practitioner posts that became available in each year is not collated centrally. However, the following table provides information on the total number of house officer and foundation programme year 1.

*Table 2. Hospital and Community Health Services: medical and dental staff showing house officer and foundation programme year 1 by year—England as at 30 September each year*

| | | *Number (headcount)* |
|---|---|---|
| | *All staff* | *Of which: House officer and foundation programme year 1* |
| 1997 | 66,836 | 3,398 |
| 1998 | 68,458 | 3,496 |
| 1999 | 70,000 | 3,606 |
| 2000 | 71,688 | 3,691 |
| 2001 | 73,846 | 3,742 |
| 2002 | 77,031 | 4,010 |
| 2003 | 80,851 | 4,003 |
| 2004 | 86,996 | 4,273 |
| 2005 | 90,630 | 4,663 |
| 2006 | 93,320 | 4,905 |

*Source*
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

## Drugs: Misuse

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were prescribed *(a)* methadone and *(b)* other hard drug substitutes in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the size is of the waiting list for substitutes programmes. [170666]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In 2006-07, the latest period for which data are available, 118,500 individuals received a prescribing modality, such as methadone for the treatment of drug misuse.

The average waiting time to access general practitioner prescribing in 2006-07 was 0.87 weeks.

The average waiting time to access specialist prescribing in 2006-07 was 0-9 weeks.

## Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been provided for residential drug treatment and rehabilitation centres in *(a)* the Wakefield area, *(b)* Hemsworth constituency and *(c)* England in 2007-08. [168010]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Funding for residential drug treatment and rehabilitation centres for the Wakefield area, Hemsworth constituency and England in 2007-08 is detailed as follows:

In 2007-08 the Wakefield partnership identified £84,400 from the local authority contribution to the pooled budget for residential rehabilitation. This ring fenced pot is accessed by the partnership on an individual needs basis.

As the Wakefield partnership covers all localities within the Wakefield area there is no separate allocation for the Hemsworth constituency. As all client applications to residential rehabilitation are based on need, it would be inappropriate to divide the funding to each suburb of the partnership.

Partnership areas send their annual treatment plans to the National Treatment Agency regional teams for consideration. Drawing on data from the planning grids of the partnership treatment plans for 2007-08, the amount budgeted by 142 drug action teams (DATs) to spend on residential rehabilitation and in-patient services was £84.1 million. However there were seven DAT partnerships that had not provided a figure in their treatment plans, thus the true national total may be higher than this.

## Drugs: Waiting Lists

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was to move from the waiting list to treatment programmes for hard drug substitutes in the latest period for which figures are available. [170665]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The latest waiting times data for substitute prescribing that we have available are for September 2007. The waiting time in this period for specialist prescribing is 0.9 weeks, and for general practitioners prescribing is 0.87 weeks.

## Education for Choice

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on his Department's Education for Choice initiative. [172423]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department is funding Education for Choice to develop two best practice toolkits for practitioners titled "Pregnancy decision making support and Abortion Education". These were tested as part of the work in our teenage health demonstration sites. The toolkits will be launched nationally early in 2008.

### Eye Care Services Steering Group

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1118W, on the eye care services steering group, when the group last met. [174518]

**Ann Keen:** The eye care services steering group last met on 4 October 2006.

### Foetal Tissue: Research

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have had with (i) hon. Members and (ii) Members of the House of Lords on (A) embryonic stem cell research and (B) the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill; and if he will make a statement. [174049]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Departmental Ministers and officials have had numerous discussions with hon. Members and Members of the House of Lords on several matters in connection with the review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, and the resulting Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, including on embryonic stem cell research.

### Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much food imported into the UK contained genetically modified ingredients in the last year for which figures are available; what labelling is required on those foodstuffs; and if he will make a statement. [173972]

**Dawn Primarolo:** All food imported into the United Kingdom from third countries, or in free circulation within the European Union (EU), must comply with relevant EU legislation. Official controls on food, including genetically modified food, imported from third countries are carried out by port health authorities and local authorities at points of entry into the UK. The collection of specific data on the quantity of imported food containing genetically modified ingredients is not a legal requirement under EU official controls legislation and such data are not collected for other purposes.

GM food is regulated in the EU under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (GM Food and Feed Regulation) and Regulation (EC) No. 1830/2003 (Traceability and Labelling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)). GM food may only be marketed in the EU if it has been authorised following a process which involves a rigorous safety assessment. GMOs which have not been authorised for use in the EU are prohibited.

Food which contains, consists of, or has been produced from authorised GMOs has to be labelled as such regardless of the presence of detectable novel genetic material in the final product, or the quantity of intentionally used GM ingredient present. Labelling does not apply to foods which contain authorised GM material of 0.9 per cent. or less, provided that this presence is adventitious or technically unavoidable.

### Health Services: Forest of Dean

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with those social enterprises operating health services in *(a)* the Forest of Dean and *(b)* Stroud. [173198]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Forest of Dean Health Enterprise Trust is one the Department's social enterprise pathfinders, which are leading the way in delivering innovative health and social care services. They are working closely with the Department, the NHS South West and other stakeholders and are making progress in reviewing options for developing innovative community services, covering health, social care and transport.

The Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) has not had any recent discussions with social enterprises operating health services in Stroud.

### Health Services: Infectious Diseases

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account is taken of the precautionary principle in steps to mitigate vCJD transmission via the transfusion of blood from asymptomatic carriers. [174475]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A range of precautionary measures have been put in place by the Department to reduce the possible risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) being passed through blood. For details of these precautionary measures I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1329-30W.

### Health: Screening

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the UK National Screening Committee to publish its equality review of national screening programmes. [175107]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A scoping report was presented to the United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UK NSC) at its November 2007 meeting. This recommended that a UK-wide project should be undertaken to address equality in screening. The project is currently being commissioned and the results will be published in due course on the UK NSC website.

### Heart Diseases: Medical Equipment

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average change in the costs of drug eluting stents has been over the last four years; and if he will make a statement; [173948]

(2) what the cost to the NHS of drug eluting stents was over the past four years. [174589]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not collect information on the cost of stents centrally.

There is no national framework agreement for the supply of drug eluting stents, and trusts or their

Collaborative Procurement Hubs purchase or contract these directly from suppliers.

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence health technology appraisal on drug eluting stents has been referred to the Decision Support Unit at Sheffield University for further work. [173949]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We understand that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not asked the Decision Support Unit at Sheffield University to carry out any work relating to this appraisal.

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recommendations his Department has made to refer the technology appraisal on drug eluting stents to the Decision Support Unit at Sheffield university. [174922]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is conducting a review of earlier guidance issued in October 2003 on the use of drug eluting coronary artery stents in the treatment of heart disease. The conduct of the appraisal is a matter for NICE. We understand the Institute has not asked the Decision Support Unit at Sheffield university to carry out any work relating to this appraisal.

### Hospitals: Parking

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that hospitals provide car parking concessions for patients travelling regularly for treatment. [175263]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is for each national health service trust to set the level of charges for its car parks, taking into account local circumstances. However, the Department issued revised guidance to the national health service in December 2006 entitled 'Income Generation: Car Parking Charges—Best Practice for Implementation' on the issues to be considered when setting up a car parking scheme or when reviewing existing ones, including what charges to impose and what concessions to consider. This guidance strongly encourages the NHS to be sensitive to those patients who have to use their car parks regularly, by, for instance, offering them reduced price or free car parking.

### Human Papilloma Virus: Screening

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which sites will begin human papilloma virus testing as triage, as referred to in paragraph 3.15 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [175137]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The sites which will begin human papilloma virus testing as triage are:

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;

Central Manchester and Manchester Childrens University Hospitals NHS Trust;

North Bristol NHS Hospital Trust;

Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust;

North West London Hospitals NHS Trust; and

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Results from these sites will be known by 2009 at which point further roll-out can be considered.

### Independent Reconfiguration Panel

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1002W, on the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, if he will list the members of the panel, stating in each case whether they are a *(a)* clinical, *(b)* managerial and *(c)* lay representative; [169859]

(2) on what dates the annual review meetings between the Panel and senior representatives from his Department were held; and if he will place copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each of these meetings in the Library; [169860]

(3) what the value of the contract between the Panel and the Central Office of Information for media work was in each financial year since the Panel was established. [169861]

**Ann Keen:** The Independent Reconfiguration Panel website lists both the members of the panel and their category of membership. It also includes details of business reviews for 2004-05, 2005-06 and can be found at:

www.irpanel.org.uk.

The business review for 2006-07 will be published on the website in due course.

The value of the contract between the panel and the Central Office of Information for media work in each financial year since the panel was established is given as follows. The increase in costs during 2006-07 is a result of the panel's increased work load during that time.

| | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|
| March 2004 to March 2005 | 28,662.84 |
| April 2005 to February 2006 | 18,626.33 |
| March 2006 to April 2007 | 73,650.69 |

### Industrial Diseases

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the annual financial cost of the incidence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to the National Health Service; and if he will make a statement. [173112]

**Ann Keen:** Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease accounts for more than £800 million in direct national health service healthcare costs each year.

### Infectious Diseases: Screening

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number and proportion of *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency patients screened for (i) MRSA and (ii) clostridium difficile in the last period for which figures are available. [165718]

**Ann Keen:** The decision to screen for MRSA is currently taken by local managers and clinicians in health organisations. The department does not routinely produce estimates of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) screening or estimates of the extent of screening. Information on MRSA screening is not collected centrally.

Patients, whether elective or emergency admissions, are not usually screened for *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI). However, if a patient presents with diarrhoea clinicians may request testing for GDI.

### Infertility: Females

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of *(a)* female infertility there have been (i) in total and (ii) of tubal origin and *(b)* male infertility there have been in England in each year since 1997-98. [174017]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Count of finished consultant episodes in England where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of female infertility, female infertility of tubal origin and male infertility since 1997-98*[1]

| | *Female infertility* | *Female infertility of tubal origin*[2] | *Male infertility* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 22,061 | 2,482 | 699 |
| 2005-06 | 20,675 | 2,114 | 722 |
| 2004-05 | 20,125 | 2,147 | 734 |
| 2003-04 | 20,038 | 2,337 | 650 |
| 2002-03 | 20,130 | 2,464 | 713 |
| 2001-02 | 20,310 | 2,328 | 658 |
| 2000-01 | 21,349 | 2,481 | 792 |
| 1999-2000 | 23,667 | 2,771 | 858 |
| 1998-99 | 24,950 | 3,021 | 922 |
| 1997-98 | 25,688 | 3,257 | 948 |

[1] The figures do not represent a count of total diagnoses of infertility as many patients may have this diagnosis but not be admitted to hospital. The figures may also capture the same patient twice if they have more than one finished consultant episode where the infertility diagnosis was recorded.

[2] Data for 'female infertility of tubal origin' are also included in the data for total 'female infertility'.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics

### Influenza

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government has to stockpile *(a)* anti-inflammatory drugs and *(b)* immunomodulatory statins for use in the event of an influenza pandemic. [175092]

**Dawn Primarolo:** On 22 November, the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) announced the commitment to increase stockpiles of antivirals and antibiotics in preparation for an influenza pandemic. The Department is also working on a number of measures to safeguard the supply of a range of other medicines including anti-inflammatories and statins. Stockpiling is one option among several that are being explored. Work on preparedness for an influenza pandemic continues.

### Maternity Services: Standards

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to improve the standard of services for women in labour since 1997. [170373]

**Ann Keen:** Since 1997, we have made great strides in improving maternity care. On 27 November 2007, the Healthcare Commission published a report of their survey of "women's experiences of maternity care in the NHS, England". The survey found that "89 per cent. of women rated the overall care received during labour and birth as 'excellent', 'very good' or 'good' ". However, we recognise that more work needs to be done.

The standard for maternity care is contained in Standard 11 of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (published September 2004) the standard sets out the Government's vision for maternity services, which is for women

> "to have easy access to supportive, high quality maternity services, designed around their individual needs and those of their babies".

Earlier this year we published "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service". This document introduces a new national choice guarantee for women. This means that by 2009 all women will have choice in where and how they have their baby and what pain relief to use, depending on their individual circumstances.

On 26 September 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published a guideline on "Intrapartum care: management and delivery of care to women in labour". It provides additional information to help women and their partners to make a truly informed choice as to which setting is most appropriate for their own needs and wishes in where their baby is delivered, having discussed this with their midwife.

### Medical Treatments Abroad

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 831W, whether the health care professionals who advised his Department on classification were informed that this classification would be used as the basis of a proposed pricing system. [171195]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Health care professionals reviewed responses to the consultation on the basis of items meeting similar medical need, and product features such as size and material.

This was designed as technical input and they were not requested to consider the item price of any of the items under consideration, and the application of the economic pricing model was not discussed. This was made clear in the Consultation published on 6 September 2007, "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drugs Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services-to Primary Care: Annex C Proposals regarding reimbursement for items".

It should be noted that in November 2006, the Department consulted upon the principle of the economic model proposed, as this information and how it was proposed to be applied to any item classification was clearly laid out, for all stakeholders to review.

### Mentally Incapacitated: Protection

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* role is performed by and *(b)* action is required from the Commission for Social Care Inspection when a local authority notifies it of an adult protection case. [172108]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** In 2000, the Department issued "No Secrets— guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse". Under the guidance, local authorities are allocated the lead and co-ordination responsibility in local safeguarding situations. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) established a protocol with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Association of Chief Police Officers to clarify the role of key agencies collaborating in multi-agency safeguarding procedures. This was revised and updated in 2007.

As detailed in section 3.2 of CSCI's Safeguarding Adults Protocol and Guidance, CSCI works in partnership with other agencies to ensure that concerns or allegations of abuse are appropriately referred to and investigated by the most appropriate agency; and ensures regulated services comply with relevant regulations.

While CSCI will aim to co-ordinate any regulatory action with the police or commissioners of the service, the need to give primary consideration to its own statutory responsibilities follows the key principle which emerged from the 'Longacre' inquiry. This was that while working in partnership with other agencies, CSCI will not suspend its own statutory enforcement responsibilities pending the outcome of another (e.g. criminal) process where to do so would run counter to the safety and well-being of the people who use the service. In such circumstances, CSCI will aim wherever possible to coordinate actions in order to preserve evidence and avoid impeding each other's investigations or enforcement action.

Where there are no indications of serious risk requiring immediate regulatory action, the outcome of any investigation undertaken by partner agencies or the care provider will inform CSCI's decision making about further regulatory action.

### MRSA: Disease Control

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides on personal hygiene measures to be taken by patients prior to attending a pre-operation assessment to help minimise the spread of MRSA. [173882]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has not produced guidance about measures to be taken by patients before a pre-operation assessment and arrangements will be determined locally by trusts. However, in the course of 2008-09, methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) screening for all elective admissions will be introduced as part of the pre-operation assessment and this will help reduce MRSA infection rates.

### National Blood Service

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of donations of blood to the National Blood Service; and if he will make a statement. [174145]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Blood Service (NBS) aims to have between 40,000 to 50,000 units of red blood cells in stock. This target allows for a sizable stock for contingency purposes above and beyond normal demand for red blood cells.

As of 14 December 2007, the NBS had 31,853 units of red blood cells in stock. While this is below target levels, the NBS continues to meet demand for blood from hospitals.

The NBS recognises the need to increase blood collection and has put in place a number of initiatives, such as increased marketing activity to current and potential blood donors and the introduction of an appointments system for donors.

However fewer people are giving blood regularly, a trend that the NBS is working to reverse.

### NHS Foundation Trusts: Public Appointments

**Mr. McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which individuals have been appointed to the boards of NHS foundation trusts in the North West of England since 2001 to date, broken down by *(a)* employment background, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* sex and *(d)* political affiliation. [174924]

**Ann Keen:** Monitor, the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts, authorised the first national health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs) on 1 April 2004.

The public register on Monitor's website contains a list of board members for each NHSFT. This is available at:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/register.php

More detailed information is not collected by Monitor but may be obtained by contacting the chair of each NHSFT in the north-west region. The following NHSFTs are located in the north-west region (as at 1 December 2007):

Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust;
Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust;
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust;
Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust;
Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust;
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust;
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust; and
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

## NHS: Drugs

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many biosimilar medicines are licensed for use in the United Kingdom; [173695]

(2) if the Government will take steps to preclude the automatic substitution of brands with similar biological medicines to ensure patients are not put at unnecessary risk from potential adverse drug reactions; [173696]

(3) if he will hold discussions with *(a)* the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and *(b)* the European Medicines Agency to ensure that manufacturers of biosimilar medicines submit full clinical trial data on each indication for their products rather than extrapolated data from the reference product; [173697]

(4) if he will ensure that biosimilar medicine packaging and accompanying patient information leaflets *(a)* contain details of the formulation and manufacturing process for the biosimilar agent and *(b)* make reference to the potential risk of not being able to determine which drug resulted in an adverse drug reaction as a result of interchanging similar biological medicines. [173698]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The relevant European Union (EU) legislation requires that packaging and leaflets include information on the qualitative composition for active substances and excipients and the quantitative composition for active substances, the pharmaceutical form and content of the active drug substance in weight, volume or units of dosage, the name and address of the manufacturer, the name and address of the marketing authorisation holder and, where applicable, the name of his appointed representatives in the member states.

They must also include a description of the relevant adverse reactions which may occur under normal use of the medicinal product and, if necessary, the action to be taken in such a case. The patient should be expressly asked to communicate any adverse reaction which is not mentioned in the package leaflet to his doctor or pharmacist.

Details of the manufacturing processes are commercially confidential and are subject to intellectual property rights and cannot be made publicly available.

The demonstration of the similar nature of two biological medicinal products may not always be required for each indication applied for. European legislation does not exclude extrapolation of evidence based on the biosimilar product. Existing guidance provided by European Medicines Agency (EMEA) allows such extrapolation, when demonstrated in an appropriate clinical situation, as long as it is justified on a scientific basis. Therefore the type and amount of additional data to be provided shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with relevant scientific guidelines.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has not issued a specific guideline to clinicians on substitution. All medicines, including biological medicines, should be prescribed by clinicians in accordance with the approved advice provided in the Summary of Product Characteristics which provides full information about the product, including its side effects and its use.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's Professional standards and guidance for the sale and supply of medicines provides advice to pharmacists on switching from innovator biological medicines to biosimilar medicines and states that except in an emergency, a specifically named product should not be substituted by any other product without the approval of the patient or carer and the prescriber, and in the case of hospital drugs, the approval of the therapeutics committee, or in line with other similar locally agreed protocols.

To date there are five biosimilar medicinal products approved for use in the EU. This includes two preparations of the recombinant growth hormone, somatropin, namely Omnitrope and Valtropin and three preparations of epoetin alfa; Abseamed, Binocrit, and Epoetin alfa Hexal.

There are several more biosimilar medicinal products currently under assessment.

## NHS: ICT

**Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the quality of evidence submitted by the Liverpool Reviews and Implementation Group to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's review of the economic models for determining cost-effectiveness in technology appraisals. [173120]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have received no such representations.

## NHS: Speech Therapy

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many speech therapist hours per week are available within the NHS in the North East region. [173565]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of qualified speech and language therapy staff in the North East Strategic Health Authority area as at 30 September 2006.

| | *Full-time equivalent* |
|---|---|
| England | 5,149 |
| *Of which:* | |
| North East Strategic Health Authority area | 311 |

*Notes:*

1. Full time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

2. One full-time equivalent is based on 37.5 hours per week.

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

## Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust

**Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were in each specialty at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [172521]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested has been set out in the following table.

*Count of finished consultant episodes by main speciality for the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust in 2005-06*

| *Main specialty* | *Goole treatment centre* | *Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust* | *Total finished consultant episodes* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Accident and Emergency | — | 502 | 502 |
| Anaesthetics | — | 318 | 318 |
| Cardiothoracic Surgery | — | 55 | 55 |
| Clinical Haematology | — | 3,026 | 3,026 |
| Clinical Immunology and Allergy | — | 123 | 123 |
| Critical Care Medicine | 6 | 461 | 467 |
| Dermatology | — | [1]— | [1]— |
| Ear, Nose and Throat | — | 2,171 | 2,171 |
| General Medicine | 8 | 26,892 | 26,900 |
| General Surgery | — | 17,622 | 17,622 |
| Geriatric Medicine | — | 3,825 | 3,825 |
| Gynaecology | — | 10,613 | 10,613 |
| Medical Oncology | — | 5,397 | 5,397 |
| Nephrology | — | [1]— | [1]— |
| Obstetrics | — | 6,408 | 6,408 |
| Ophthalmology | 478 | 2,822 | 3,300 |
| Oral Surgery | — | 1,909 | 1,909 |
| Paediatrics | — | 9,736 | 9,736 |
| Rehabilitation | — | [1]— | [1]— |
| Rheumatology | — | 681 | 681 |
| Trauma and Orthopaedics | 2,203 | 6,394 | 8,597 |
| Urology | — | 6,234 | 6,234 |
| Not Known | — | 17 | 17 |
| Total | 2,695 | 105,224 | 107,919 |

[1] Low numbers. Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed. Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional smallest number have been suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality.

*Notes:*

1. Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust is made up of the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust and the Goole Treatment Centre. The total finished consultant episodes column is the total figure for the whole trust.
2. The specialty in each consultant episode is the specialty the consultant practices under.
3. Data quality. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE). An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
5. Specialty. Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as Acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information.
6. Ungrossed Data. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health & Social Care

## Nurses: Manpower

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurses are available to treat patients with long-term conditions; and what plans he has to increase the numbers of specialist nurses treating patients with long-term conditions. [173282]

**Ann Keen:** The national health service work force census does not separately identify specialist nurses available to treat patients with long-term conditions.

It is for local work force planners to determine their specialist nursing needs in order to meet the long term condition needs of their local population.

The Government recognise the important contribution made by specialist nurses and remain committed to both the continued development of such roles and to ensuring there are enough specialist nurses and other healthcare professionals to provide the high quality services for patients.

## Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07; and if he will provide a breakdown of these figures by hospital for 2006-07. [174970]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

## Obesity

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to increase public awareness of the body mass index as an indicator of health; and if he will make a statement. [174723]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has produced a number of publications that include descriptions of body mass index (BMI) in the context of maintaining a healthy weight, for example, the "Your Weight Your Health" leaflet. The Department's website also defines BMI in the context of obesity in children and adults.

In addition, the Department commissioned the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce guidance on the "prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children". Published in December 2006, this guidance includes information on BMI and more importantly advice to the public on achieving and maintaining a healthy BMI.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of parents who will access the online height-weight calculator being developed by his Department. [174749]

**Dawn Primarolo:** An interim version of the online height weight calculator has been available since July at www.direct.gov.uk/childweight We have been monitoring the use of the calculator since October 2007, and there have been over 4,500 hits. We are currently consulting with parents for their views on the calculator, and following this, will make changes to ensure a permanent tool is parent-friendly and useful. We will continue to monitor the use of the calculator.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to publish his Department's strategy for tackling obesity; which *(a)* Government Departments, *(b)* Government agencies, *(c)* other organisations and *(d)* other interested parties are involved in its development; and if he will make a statement. [174766]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The cross-Government strategy to tackle obesity will be published mid to late January 2008. The development of the strategy has been informed by discussions with several Government Departments, including: Children, Schools and Family, Culture, Media and Sport, Communities and Local Government, Transport, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Cabinet Office. We have also consulted with the Food Standards Agency and scientific experts from the Foresight Project along with a number of non-governmental organisations. I will be meeting with ministerial colleagues to continue discussions as we move towards publication.

## Organs: Donors

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organs of each type were *(a)* donated and *(b)* required to treat people in each year since organ donation began. [172899]

**Ann Keen:** The number of organs donated from deceased and living donors, and the numbers added to the waiting list in each year is shown as follows. Records before 1972 are very sparse and are only properly validated since 1985. As such, these figures can be described as 'since records began' but cannot be treated as absolute.

*Organs donated for transplant, United Kingdom, from deceased donors*

| | kidney | heart | lung | liver | pancreas |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1972 | 590 | — | — | — | — |
| 1973 | 540 | — | — | 5 | — |
| 1974 | 620 | — | — | 2 | — |
| 1975 | 677 | — | — | 8 | — |
| 1976 | 682 | — | — | 15 | — |
| 1977 | 866 | — | — | 14 | — |
| 1978 | 1,030 | — | — | 7 | — |
| 1979 | 908 | — | — | 8 | — |
| 1980 | 970 | 2 | — | 8 | — |
| 1981 | 850 | 3 | — | 9 | — |
| 1982 | 1,075 | 3 | — | 11 | — |
| 1983 | 1,182 | 7 | — | 8 | — |
| 1984 | 1,510 | 32 | — | 29 | 1 |
| 1985 | 1,376 | 134 | 62 | 59 | 15 |
| 1986 | 1,517 | 209 | 99 | 137 | 11 |
| 1987 | 1,533 | 279 | 128 | 204 | 14 |
| 1988 | 1,609 | 338 | 187 | 272 | 31 |
| 1989 | 1,814 | 357 | 205 | 340 | 13 |
| 1990 | 1,777 | 365 | 228 | 369 | 6 |
| 1991 | 1,671 | 327 | 249 | 409 | 13 |
| 1992 | 1,688 | 358 | 242 | 504 | 32 |
| 1993 | 1,639 | 335 | 221 | 542 | 36 |
| 1994 | 1,659 | 380 | 287 | 626 | 32 |
| 1995 | 1,688 | 346 | 284 | 663 | 55 |
| 1996 | 1,594 | 326 | 296 | 645 | 52 |
| 1997 | 1,565 | 286 | 270 | 658 | 49 |
| 1998 | 1,453 | 287 | 277 | 653 | 33 |
| 1999 | 1,405 | 250 | 270 | 650 | 43 |
| 2000 | 1,448 | 211 | 232 | 663 | 39 |
| 2001 | 1,465 | 200 | 246 | 662 | 64 |
| 2002 | 1,443 | 161 | 222 | 689 | 89 |
| 2003 | 1,343 | 163 | 285 | 606 | 86 |
| 2004 | 1,525 | 175 | 287 | 702 | 115 |
| 2005 | 1,412 | 150 | 279 | 605 | 161 |
| 2006 | 1,477 | 156 | 248 | 624 | 212 |
| 2007[1] | 1,334 | 128 | 234 | 548 | 287 |
| total | 46,935 | 5,956 | 5,338 | 12,054 | 1,489 |

[1] to date

*Organs donated for transplant, UK, from living donors*

| | kidney | partial liver | partial lung | 'domino' heart | 'domino' liver |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1972 | 8 | — | — | — | — |
| 1973 | 6 | — | — | — | — |
| 1974 | 11 | — | — | — | — |
| 1975 | 13 | — | — | — | — |
| 1976 | 31 | — | — | — | — |
| 1977 | 65 | — | — | — | — |
| 1978 | 103 | — | — | — | — |
| 1979 | 92 | — | — | — | — |
| 1980 | 76 | — | — | — | — |
| 1981 | 81 | — | — | — | — |
| 1982 | 80 | — | — | — | — |
| 1983 | 104 | — | — | — | — |

*Organs donated for transplant, UK, from living donors*

| | kidney | partial liver | partial lung | 'domino' heart | 'domino' liver |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1984 | 118 | — | — | — | — |
| 1985 | 112 | — | — | — | — |
| 1986 | 114 | — | — | — | — |
| 1987 | 112 | — | — | 24 | — |
| 1988 | 126 | — | — | 31 | — |
| 1989 | 118 | — | — | 32 | — |
| 1990 | 101 | — | — | 48 | — |
| 1991 | 88 | — | — | 40 | — |
| 1992 | 101 | — | — | 25 | — |
| 1993 | 142 | 1 | — | 13 | — |
| 1994 | 135 | 7 | — | 23 | — |
| 1995 | 155 | 1 | 2 | 27 | — |
| 1996 | 183 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 1 |
| 1997 | 179 | 4 | 2 | 19 | — |
| 1998 | 253 | 2 | 8 | 28 | — |
| 1999 | 270 | 13 | 4 | 23 | 1 |
| 2000 | 348 | 13 | 2 | 13 | — |
| 2001 | 359 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 1 |
| 2002 | 372 | 2 | — | 6 | 4 |
| 2003 | 451 | 3 | — | 4 | 3 |
| 2004 | 463 | 10 | — | 1 | 2 |
| 2005 | 544 | 8 | — | — | 1 |
| 2006 | 671 | 9 | — | — | 3 |
| 2007 (to date) | 714 | 11 | 2 | — | 2 |
| Total | 6,900 | 94 | 26 | 388 | 18 |

*Patients added to the active waiting list for an organ transplant, UK*

| | Kidney | Pancreas | Kidney/pancreas | Heart | Lung | Heart/lung | Liver |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1972 | 452 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1973 | 476 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1974 | 583 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1975 | 662 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1976 | 672 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1977 | 860 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1978 | 1,161 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1979 | 1,098 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1980 | 1,181 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1981 | 1,142 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1982 | 1,351 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1983 | 1,566 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1984 | 1,792 | — | 1 | 34 | — | — | — |
| 1985 | 1,947 | — | — | 302 | — | 1 | 49 |
| 1986 | 2,079 | — | 2 | 386 | 1 | 2 | 96 |
| 1987 | 1,963 | — | — | 465 | 11 | 5 | 168 |
| 1988 | 2,039 | 1 | 2 | 555 | 9 | 10 | 234 |
| 1989 | 2,095 | 2 | 27 | 337 | 27 | 99 | 287 |
| 1990 | 2,305 | 2 | 16 | 311 | 80 | 158 | 344 |
| 1991 | 2,316 | — | 23 | 373 | 111 | 144 | 426 |
| 1992 | 2,347 | 1 | 29 | 382 | 123 | 152 | 463 |
| 1993 | 2,269 | — | 29 | 346 | 133 | 113 | 540 |
| 1994 | 2,200 | 2 | 28 | 337 | 157 | 75 | 561 |
| 1995 | 2,352 | 3 | 39 | 325 | 177 | 91 | 670 |
| 1996 | 2,429 | 8 | 36 | 341 | 161 | 128 | 682 |
| 1997 | 2,209 | 5 | 34 | 365 | 185 | 80 | 726 |
| 1998 | 2,037 | 3 | 53 | 311 | 142 | 71 | 750 |
| 1999 | 2,026 | 4 | 60 | 271 | 174 | 83 | 671 |
| 2000 | 1,966 | 16 | 68 | 222 | 178 | 92 | 785 |
| 2001 | 1,976 | 5 | 82 | 198 | 170 | 61 | 797 |
| 2002 | 2,006 | 17 | 66 | 183 | 182 | 52 | 791 |
| 2003 | 1,955 | 12 | 73 | 196 | 174 | 39 | 839 |
| 2004 | 2,186 | 30 | 112 | 205 | 205 | 33 | 865 |
| 2005 | 2,257 | 35 | 119 | 214 | 241 | 26 | 867 |
| 2006 | 2,656 | 48 | 217 | 205 | 208 | 16 | 780 |
| 2007 (to date) | 2,132 | 42 | 162 | 164 | 172 | 7 | 633 |
| Total | 62,743 | 236 | 1,278 | 7,028 | 3,021 | 1,538 | 13,024 |

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons an EU-wide legal framework for organ donation has been proposed. [173002]

**Ann Keen:** A European Union Commission analysis of organ donation and transplantation across EU member states has revealed large differences in organ donor rates and transplant activity. On 31 May 2007 the EU Commission adopted a communication on organ donation and transplantation proposing two mechanisms. Firstly an action plan to encourage closer cooperation between member states sharing expertise to maximise organ donation and to optimise equity of access to transplantation. The Commission would also monitor organ trafficking and consider any necessary additional action. Secondly, it would put in place a legal framework that would establish the basic level of quality and safety for transplantation at community level.

### Patients: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used by the Healthcare Commission for assessing adherence to core standards on food and nutritional care, as described on page 18 of his Department's document, Improving Nutritional Care; and in what ways these criteria are new. [170064]

**Ann Keen:** Core standard C15 focuses on the provision of food in relation to choice, safety, balanced diet, nutrition, dietary requirements and access. As part of their self-declaration process the Healthcare Commission have published the following criteria for assessment of C15:

*C15a*

1. Patients are offered a choice of food in line with the requirements of a balanced diet, reflecting the needs and preferences and rights (including faith and cultural needs) of its service user population[1]

2. The preparation, distribution, handling and serving of food is carried out in accordance with food safety legislation and national guidance (including the Food Safety Act 1990, the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995 and EC regulation 852/2004.

*C15b*

1. Patients have access to food and drink 24 hours a day[1]

2. The nutritional, personal and clinical dietary requirements of individual patients are assessed and met, including the right to have religious dietary requirements met[1]

3. Patients requiring assistance with eating and drinking are provided with appropriate support[1]

[1] Adequate levels of assurance can be provided by an outcome of 'excellent' for 'food' for each relevant site from Patient Environment Action Teams' assessments for 2008.

For the 2006-07 assessment year, there was only a minor clarification to the criteria the Healthcare Commission used for assessment purposes.

For the 2007-08 assessment year, the criteria dropped reference to the Better Hospital Food programme as the programme came to a close.

### Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group: Finance

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding the Government will make available to the Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group in each of the next three financial years. [174012]

**Dawn Primarolo:** At the British Pharmaceutical Conference in September 2007, my hon. Friend the Minister of State, (Mr. Bradshaw), announced £3 million towards establishing the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). This will be allocated in two amounts across two financial years: £1.5 million in 2008-09 and £1.5 million in 2009-10. At present, there is no allocation for the financial year 2010-11. As part of its work, the Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group will advise Ministers on the financial considerations of establishing the GPhC.

### Pharmacy: Personal Records

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how data are shared between pharmacists and the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority; and what medium is used to transmit the data; [174721]

(2) what encryption is used when sending data from pharmacists to the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority. [174722]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The prescription pricing division (PPD) of the NHS Business Services Authority currently uses the paper prescription forms received for reimbursement and remuneration purposes only.

PPD also receive prescription messages under Release 1 of the electronic prescription service (EPS) but no PPD processing takes place for reimbursement and remuneration purposes. Approximately 1.1 million messages have been received since August 2007, which are held for approximately 60 days then deleted. The service protects the confidentiality of the data received.

The data received through the EPS are encrypted under transport layer security termination and conform to the national health service cryptographic standards. The data are unencrypted at PPD and are processed through a secure batch processing system.

### Post-natal Depression

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mothers have been diagnosed with post-natal depression in each year since 1997 *(a)* one week, *(b)* one month and *(c)* one year after giving birth; and how many mother and baby beds are available in mental health units. [173283]

**Ann Keen:** Information about the number of mothers who were diagnosed with postnatal depression, within any given time period following birth, is not collected centrally. Accurate data are not available about overall mother and baby bed numbers.

### Poultry Meat

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's policy is on the addition of animal or vegetable proteins or other high nitrogen materials into chicken breasts; what assessment he has made of the effect of this practice on the accurate measurement of the amount of added water in the product; and if he will make a statement; [174921]

(2) what assistance the Food Standards Agency has *(a)* requested and *(b)* received from (i) the European Commission and (ii) the Dutch Government in relation to the use of added animal proteins in chicken breasts in the last five years. [174923]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The production and labelling of meat products are regulated in law. European legislation places no limit on the addition of proteins of animal or vegetable origin. If proteins are added to chicken breast products they must be correctly described on the label so as not to mislead consumers.

Added water is calculated using methodology agreed at European level. The method was developed to take account of the addition of hydrolysed collagen protein and works well for the type of product that it was developed for. The need for further methodological development is kept under consideration.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has urged the European Commission to take action on the use of hydrolysed proteins from different animal species in poultry products, including in chicken breast products. The European Commission responded with a number of actions, including:

a review of legal requirements, emphasising to member states that the practice of adding proteins to poultry products is legal, but that without proper labelling it would be fraudulent. The conclusion was that the legislation was adequate;

a European Food and Veterinary Office mission to assess poultry meat production including the use of water retention agents such as proteins. This mission covered both the United Kingdom and the Netherlands;

the inclusion of an assessment of the use of water retention agents in a European Coordinated Programme for the Official Control of Food Stuffs.

In relation to assistance from the Government of the Netherlands, adverse sampling and testing results on imported frozen chicken breasts with added water and protein from the Netherlands have been forwarded by the FSA during 2007 to the Dutch enforcement authorities. The Dutch authorities have taken action against the relevant company.

## Prescription Drugs

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* pre-market launch and *(b)* post-market launch medicines are on which the National Prescribing Centre provides evaluated information; and which condition each treats. [175122]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Prescribing Centre publishes two newsletters on its website to assist the national health service in managing the introduction of new medicines. "On the Horizon—Future Medicines" contains information on selected medicines prior to launch, and "On the Horizon—Post-Launch Update" provides information on selected medicines after they have been launched in the United Kingdom.

The following tables show topics and indications from both publications from April 2005 to December 2007.

*Pre-market launch medicines*

| | *Topic* | *Indication* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | Capecitabine | Adjunct to surgery for Duke's C colon cancer |
| | Natalizumab | Relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis |
| | Letrozole | Early hormone-responsive breast cancer |
| | Rimonabant | Obesity |
| | Pegaptanib | Age-related macular degeneration |
| | Trastuzumab | Adjuvant treatment of HER2 positive early breast cancer |
| | Tegaserod | Irritable bowel syndrome |
| | Deferasirox | Chronic iron overload |
| | Varenicline | Smoking cessation |
| 2006-07 | Agomelatine | Depression |
| | Sitagliptin and Vildagliptin | Type 2 diabetes |
| | Bevacizumab | Advanced non-squamous, non-small cell lung cancer |
| | Telbivudine | Chronic hepatitis B |
| | Continuous erythropoietin receptor activator (CERA) | Anaemia of chronic kidney disease |
| | Aliskiren | Hypertension |
| April 2007 to date | Febuxostat | Treatment of high uric acid levels in gout |
| | Dabigatran | Prevention of blood clots after orthopaedic surgery |
| | Ramelteon | Insomnia |
| | Lacosamide | Pain due to diabetic neuropathy |
| | Rivaroxaban (in production) | Prevention of blood clots after orthopaedic surgery |

*Source:*
National Prescribing Centre: On the Horizon—Future Medicines

*Post-market launch medicines*

| | *Topic* | *Indication* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | Inhaled insulin | Type 1 diabetes |
| | Natalizumab | Multiple sclerosis |
| | Rimonabant | Obesity |
| | Varenicline | Smoking cessation |
| April 2007 to date | Sitagliptin | Type 2 diabetes |
| | Vildagliptin (in production) | Type 2 diabetes |

*Source:*
National Prescribing Centre: On the Horizon—Post-launch Update

## Prescription Drugs: Side Effects

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* estimate he has made of and *(b)* research he has (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on the number of patients who have had adverse reactions to medicines due to (A) prescription and (B) use after the use-by date; and if he will make a statement. [171910]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The data collected on suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) through the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) Yellow Card Scheme do not record whether the drug suspected to have caused an adverse reaction was received by prescription or if the drug was used after the use-by date.

No research into the numbers of patients who experience ADRs from medicines received by prescription or use of medicines after the use-by date has been commissioned by the MHRA.

### Prescriptions

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1013W, on prescriptions, what operational issues were discussed. [175051]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Since January this year, a representative but not exhaustive list of the operational issues discussed at the monthly departmental meetings with the prescription pricing division of the National Health Service Business Services Authority, have been the performance report, the business plan, the capacity improvement programme, information services and the electronic prescription service.

### Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of prescription items were dispensed free of charge in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [174795]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information centre for health and social care's "Prescriptions Dispensed in the Community Statistics for 1996 to 2006: England" published in July 2007 shows that 88 per cent. of prescription items were dispensed in the community in England with no charge paid at the point of dispensing.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the 18 to 60-year-old population is not required to pay prescription charges. [174796]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data are collected on the number of items dispensed and, when free of charge, the reason for the exemption. It is not possible to answer this question because prescription data on individuals are not collected.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the levels of awareness of the NHS Low Income Scheme among people likely to be entitled to such help. [174798]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Prescription Pricing Division of the National Health Service Business Services Authority, which is responsible for publicising the prescription charging arrangements in England including the NHS low income scheme, takes every opportunity to publicise the arrangements. This includes regular mailings to all pharmacies, general practitioner (GP) dispensing practices and all other GP practices.

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals his Department has made to raise patients' awareness of prescription prepayment certificates. [175261]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 662W.

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals he has to exempt those on low incomes from liability for prescription charges. [175262]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government will be inviting views shortly on possible options for changes to prescription charges that are cost neutral to the national health service.

### Prescriptions: Pre-payment

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have applied to pay for a prepayment prescription certificate by direct debit since this payment method was introduced in July 2007. [174799]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The prescription pricing division of the National Health Service Business Services Authority, who administer the prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) arrangements for the Department, received 69,675 applications to purchase a 12-month PPC through direct debit instalments during the period 1 July to 30 November 2007.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of patients who have applied for a pre-payment prescription certificate (PPC) who are first-time PPC purchasers. [174800]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Prescription Pricing Division of the National Health Service Business Services Authority estimates that around 63 per cent. of the applications to purchase a prescription pre-payment certificate during November 2007, were not generated from a previously held record.

### Primary Care Trusts

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received continuing care in England during *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006 and *(e)* 2007, broken down by primary care trust. [173216]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Processed Food: Labelling

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the food industry on the relationship between provision of information on sugar, salt and fat content of processed foods and individuals' ability to manage diabetes, heart disease, stroke, obesity and other chronic medical conditions; and if he will make a statement. [170108]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department regularly engages with food manufacturers and retailers at ministerial and official level to discuss this issue.

## Prostate Cancer: Staff

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to improve the effectiveness of multi disciplinary teams working in the field of prostate cancer; and if he will make a statement. [174256]

**Ann Keen:** In 2002, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published 'Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers'.

This guidance sets out recommendations on how services for patients with urological cancers, including prostate cancer, should be organised in order to ensure the best outcomes. In particular, the guidance sets out recommendations on the organisation and membership of urological cancer multi-disciplinary teams (MDT).

Strategic health authorities have submitted action plans to demonstrate how they will implement this guidance. The Department and the Healthcare Commission monitor progress against these plans.

The National Cancer Action Team has also funded Leeds teaching hospitals NHS trust to develop and run a pilot programme to enhance MDT working and improve the quality of surgical techniques available to prostate cancer patients.

## Psychiatry: Wirral

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of bed numbers in psychiatric wards in Wirral; and if he will make a statement. [174007]

**Ann Keen:** The number of available and occupied beds for the specialties of mental illness and learning disabilities at the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has been set out in the following table:

| | *Total* | *Mental illness* | *Learning disabilities* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Available | 436 | 377 | 59 |
| Occupied | 393 | 343 | 50 |

*Source:*
DH Form KH03

Not everybody who needs care for a mental health related problem needs a psychiatric bed—even in an emergency. We have developed a range of alternatives to in-patient acute beds. These include new models of practice, robust care pathways and supported accommodation or respite care in ordinary settings.

In-patient psychiatric activity has fallen over time as we have established more than 700 new mental health teams providing community based care as an alternative to acute in-patient care.

## Sexually Transmitted Diseases

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to combat the spread of sexually transmitted infections. [174623]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Tackling the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections is a top priority. We are making excellent progress towards offering people an appointment at a genito-urinary medicine clinic within 48 hours, have established the national Chlamydia screening programme, and launched an innovative media campaign aimed at those at highest risk.

## Sickle Cell Disease: Screening

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with a sickle cell disease through the National Newborn Screening Programme, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* primary care trust and *(c)* constituency. [173236]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available by primary care trust or constituency.

Data by new strategic health authority (SHA) for 2005-06, where they are available, and for England as a whole for 2005-06, are given as follows from the NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme. These are the rates of screen positive results for significant sickle cell disease detected per 1,000 newborn screening tests undertaken. Not all sites were providing newborn screening for the full year.

*Sickle Cell disease—screen positive rates per 1,000 newborn screening tests undertaken*

| *SHA* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 0.21 |
| East of England | 0.40 |
| London | 1.91 |
| North East | n/a |
| North West | 0.21 |
| South Central | n/a |
| South East Coast | 0.08 |
| South West | 0.08 |
| West Midlands | 0.21 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0.22 |
| England | 0.57 |

n/a = Not available
*Note:*
Significant sickle cell disorders included in these figures are Sickle Cell Anaemia—Hb SS, Sickle Haemoglobin C Disease—Hb SC, Sickle Haemoglobin D Disease—Hb SD, Sickle Beta Thalassaemia Disease—Hb S/b thalassaemia (b+, b$^0$, db, Lepore), Sickle O Arab Disease—Hb SO$^{Arab}$, and Sickle and hereditary persistence of fetal haemoglobin—Hb S/HPFH.

## Social Care Reform Grant

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the allocation of the social care reform grant will be to each local authority for each of the next three years. [174691]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

## Tinnitus

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he has made available for research into tinnitus; and if he will make a statement. [174699]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2084W, to the hon. Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor).

### UK Baby Friendly Initiatives

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reply to the letter of 22 October from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on the Unicef UK baby friendly initiatives. [174462]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A reply was issued on 12 December 2007.

### Vaccination

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources his Department has made available to the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation to promote compliance with its guidance in the NHS. [174555]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not make resources available to the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI) for compliance with its guidance in the national health service. The role of JCVI is to advise the Secretaries of State for Health, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on matters relating to communicable diseases, preventable and potentially preventable through immunisation. However, the Department does provide information materials to the NHS which reflect JCVI agreed advice.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has given to the NHS on implementation of the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation guidance. [174556]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The role of Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI) is to advise the Secretaries of State for Health, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on matters relating to communicable diseases, preventable and potentially preventable through immunisation. The Department's guidance based on JCVI advice is issued to the national health service through various information channels such as the chief medical officer letters, chief executives bulletin, the guide 'Immunisation against infectious disease', websites and a range of NHS immunisation leaflets.

### Vaccination: Children

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons *(a)* Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust, *(b)* East Lancashire Primary Care Trust and *(c)* Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust did not submit COVER reports in the second quarter of 2007; and when each primary care trust (i) last submitted a COVER report and (ii) will next submit a COVER report. [171810]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Health Protection Agency has informed the Department that both Blackburn with Darwen PCT and East Lancashire PCT were unable to submit data due to staffing problems. The reason that Milton Keynes PCT did not send a COVER return is not known. All three PCTs provided data for the previous (January to March 2007) quarter and have submitted data for the June to September 2007, due to be published at the end of the month.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Big Lottery Fund

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the money available under the Big Lottery Fund Children's Play initiative has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent. [175187]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The following figures reflect the proportion of money which has been committed and spent under the Big Lottery Fund's children's play initiative in England.

£

| *Programme name* | *Current value (committed)* | *Total paid to date (spent)* |
|---|---|---|
| Play Infrastructure | 14,663,933 | 5,165,269 |
| Playful Ideas | 8,183,390 | 955,632 |
| Children's Play | 113,889,266 | 4,719,106 |
| Total | 136,736,589 | 10,840,007 |

The total money available for the Children's Play initiative is £155 million. The Big Lottery Fund has committed 88 per cent. of the total available and expect to commit all funds under the play initiative by September 2008.

### Big Lottery Fund: Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent press officers the Big Lottery Fund employs; and how many of those are based in its *(a)* London headquarters, *(b)* regional offices and *(c)* offices in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. [175394]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Big Lottery Fund currently employ eight full-time press officers. Five in England, one in Scotland, one in Northern Ireland and one in Wales. There are no press officers in regional offices.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent press officers were employed in his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [175397]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** There are 11 full-time equivalent press officers employed by the DCMS.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174957]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Five members of staff work in the DCMS parliamentary branch, and two of them deal solely with Commons and Lords written and oral questions. Correspondence from hon. Members and Peers is not dealt with by parliamentary branch.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174407]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department is committed to the sustainable operations targets for the Government estate. The Department is to increase its recycling figures to 40 per cent. of their waste arisings by 2010 and to 75 per cent. of their waste by 2020.

### English Heritage: Pay

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* members of the management board and *(b)* other staff received a salary of more than £99,999 per annum pro rata in (i) his Department, (ii) English Heritage, (iii) the Big Lottery Fund, (iv) the Arts Council and (v) the Royal Parks in the last financial year for which figures are available. [175396]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the resource accounts published on the appropriate web sites for the year 2006-07. The links are shown in the table.

| | *Links* |
|---|---|
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport | http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8493F432-266C-4690-85C0-DE4FDFDC4D50/0/dcmsresourceaccounts_200607.pdf |
| English Heritage | http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0607/hc05/0577/0577.asp |
| Big Lottery Fund | http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0607/hc08/0865/0865.asp |
| The Arts Council | http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0607/hc11/1103/1103.asp |
| Royal Parks | http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0607/hc09/0925/0925.asp |

### Gambling

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to assess the effect on business of regulations introduced under the Gambling Act 2005. [175195]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** As part of the DCMS Simplification Plan 2007 (published on 11 December 2007) we are undertaking a measurement exercise to assess administrative burdens on the gambling industry under the Gambling Act 2005. We expect to conclude the exercise in spring 2008, after external scrutiny of the initial findings by an expert panel including representatives from the gambling industry.

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the current position and future prospects of the UK gaming machine manufacturing sector. [175237]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department is engaging in active and constructive dialogue with the British Amusement Catering Trade Association, the main trade body which represents the gaming machines sector, and other trade bodies with an interest in the sector, such as the Bingo Association and the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions, to gain a full understanding of the current trading conditions in the gaming machine sector.

I have made it clear to these organisations that I will be happy to consider any evidence they can provide, in relation to the difficult trading conditions that some operators say they are currently experiencing, and any proposals for remedial action.

However, the Government's principal priority remains to protect the public. We will need to be satisfied that any proposals put forward for remedial action by the industry do not have an adverse impact in terms of the licensing objectives of the Act.

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the Gambling Act 2005 on competition in the gambling market. [175238]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** A competition assessment of the Gambling Act 2005 was included in the regulatory impact assessment which was published in April 2005 to accompany the Act. In addition, impact assessments were prepared for each piece of secondary legislation required to implement the Act. These are published with the related explanatory memorandum on the Office for Public Sector Information website (www.opsi.gov.uk), and separately on the Department's website (www.culture.gov.uk).

### Giant's Causeway

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's responsibility is for ensuring the conformity of the planning application for a visitor's centre at Giant's Causeway with UNESCO's requirement for World Heritage status; what his Department's view is on whether the application is in conformity with that status; what representations his Department received on the matter *(a)* before and *(b)* after 10 September; what discussions his Department has had with (i) UNESCO and (ii) the Northern Ireland Executive on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [174578]

**Margaret Hodge:** My Department's responsibility for World Heritage issues is set out in the concordat with Northern Ireland reproduced as follows. This responsibility includes reporting to UNESCO on all UK World Heritage sites. Discussions on the planning application for a new visitor centre for the Giant's Causeway are still under way and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

My officials were contacted by DOENI officials on 10 September on which date DOENI officials also wrote to the World Heritage Centre. My officials have remained in contact to discuss details of the planning application process and the responsibilities of my Department as State Party signatory to the World Heritage Convention.

DCMS officials briefed World Heritage Centre officials in Paris on 15 October. My Department will send a report to the World Heritage Committee by the end of January 2008 for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its meeting in July 2008.

I met the Northern Ireland Minister for Environment on 13 December.

*World Heritage Site Concordat with Northern Ireland*

World Heritage Sites: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport will be responsible for the UK Government's overall policy on World Heritage Sites and exercise a co-ordinating role in its relationship with UNESCO on this issue. Within this overall policy each of the devolved administrations will, however, continue to be responsible for identifying individual Sites within their territory, advising the UK Government on their suitability for nomination, and for dealing with issues which may arise about the proper management of those sites. DCMS will chair regular meetings to discuss World Heritage issues of mutual concern.

### Government Departments: Flags

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost has been of the review of the rules of flying the Union flag on Government buildings. [173680]

**Margaret Hodge:** No estimate has been made of the cost of the review of the arrangements for flying the Union Flag on UK Government buildings which was carried out in the normal course of the Department's business. The consultation document was produced internally and was published electronically on the Department's website www.culture.gov.uk. We also plan to publish the summary of responses electronically.

### Licensing

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment the Government have made of the effect of the introduction of late licensing on the work load of accident and emergency departments. [174827]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The Department has seen no evidence that longer hours have been responsible for increases in alcohol related admissions. We understand that it is difficult to obtain accurate data as it is a subjective judgment as to whether alcohol is the cause of an accident or injury. However, research into violence related accident and emergency admissions last year concluded there had been a 2 per cent. drop and that licensing reform had not led to increases in violent crime in the night time economy.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to reduce the bulk sale of alcohol from off-licences and supermarkets to young people in town centres. [174829]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* It is unlawful to sell alcohol to young people who are under 18. The last test purchase campaign showed that the failure rate among high risk premises had dropped to under 15 per cent. from a high point of 50 per cent and we are looking at what more can be done to drive home the message that sales to under 18s will not be tolerated.

The Government's Alcohol Strategy includes an independent review on the impact of price and promotion on specific alcohol harms in England. The findings are expected to be reported in summer 2008 and the review is expected to include any necessary recommendations for further actions to better protect young people.

### Members' Correspondence

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174939]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department does not hold this information in the format requested, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost. Some of the information required can be found in DCMS annual reports, which can be found online at:

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Annual_Reports/

In addition, the Cabinet Office announces to Parliament details of correspondence performance on an annual basis. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 75-78WS.

### Museums and Galleries: Visits

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* (i) UK and (ii) London residents, broken down by socioeconomic group and *(b)* non-UK residents who visited (1) museums and (2) art galleries in London in each of the last eight years. [169811]

**Margaret Hodge:** *(a)* (i) (1) The number of visits to DCMS sponsored museums in London in millions.

| | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK residents | 7.91 | 11.92 | 12.27 | 14.94 | 16.39 | 17.02 | 15.68 | 17.57 |
| Adult UK residents from lower socioeconomic groups | n/a | n/a | n/a | 3.77 | 3.96 | 4.31 | 2.85 | 2.82 |

(2) The number of visits to DCMS sponsored art galleries in London in millions

| | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK residents | 7.91 | 11.92 | 12.27 | 14.94 | 16.39 | 17.02 | 15.68 | 17.57 |
| Adult UK residents from lower socioeconomic groups | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1.05 | 1.25 | 1.52 | 1.15 | 1.52 |

These figures may contain some visits to museums and art galleries outside London as it is not always possible to disaggregate the data where institutions have branches both in and outside London. The Department holds a single aggregated figure for lower socio-economic groups only and did not collect these data prior to 2002-03. From 2006-07 onwards, socio-economic classification is measured using the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification. Figures prior to 2005-06 may include children.

*(a)* (ii) Figures for the number of visits made to London museums and art galleries by London residents are not held by this Department. However, the 2005-06 Taking Part survey carried out by this Department showed that 30 per cent. of respondents from lower socio-economic groups living in London had visited a museum or gallery at least once in the last year, compared to 28 per cent. of respondents from the same groups who live elsewhere in England. In addition, 61 per cent. of respondents from the higher socio-economic groups living in London had visited a museum or gallery, compared to 50 per cent. of respondents from the same groups in the rest of the country.

*(b)* The number of visits by all non-UK residents to DCMS sponsored (1) museums and (2) art galleries in London in millions

| | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Museums | 3.48 | 3.26 | 6.64 | 6.22 | 7.01 | 8.96 | 8.57 | 8.84 |
| Art galleries | 3.51 | 3.49 | 4.74 | 4.21 | 4.23 | 4.61 | 4.06 | 4.35 |

These figures may contain some visits to museums and art galleries outside London. Figures on the number of UK residents, London residents and overseas residents that visit all museums and art galleries in London each year are not available.

## New Opportunities Fund: Sports

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many awards were made from the New Opportunities Fund for physical education and sport in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07; how many have been made in 2007-08; and what the value was of such awards. [173782]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The following table gives the number and value of new awards made in the three years requested. It also gives the number of awards receiving their final payment within the financial year specified, excluding grants that have not yet closed which have received or are receiving payments. The tables use data provided by the Big Lottery Fund.

| | *Number of new awards* | *Value of awards (£ million)* | *Awards receiving their final payment within the financial year* | *Value of payments (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 169 | 46.1 | 211 | 250.2 |
| 2006-07 | 4 | 0.4 | 378 | 225.8 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 0 | 0 | 384 | 90.8 |

## Olympic Games 2012

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projects will be funded from the £290 million allocated to elite and community sport in the Olympic budget. [174027]

**James Purnell** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The Home Country Sports Councils will determine how this money is spent on support for elite athletes and coaches, facilities for elite and community use, and community programmes.

The breakdown of expenditure anticipated by Sport England from 2004-05 to 2008-09, as provided to my Department in the summer 2006, is set out in the table. This includes £50.5 million towards the costs of the Aquatics Centre and Velopark at the Olympic Park.

| *England* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Elite | 48.6 |
| Facilities | 63.3 |
| Community | 183.0 |
| Total | 294.9 |

## Olympic Games 2012: Culture

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect the London 2012 Olympic Games will have on levels of participation in cultural activities; and over what period. [172079]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Cultural Olympiad is a key part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. My department is working with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to develop a programme of cultural events which aim to inspire a new generation of young people to participate in cultural activities.

As this programme develops, consideration will be given to the impact of the programme including the number of people likely to participate in the Cultural Olympiad. LOCOG aims to measure the success of the Games in terms of three core values—adopted following LOCOG's extensive public consultation in the creation of the framework for the Cultural Olympiad. These values are: Celebrating London and the whole of the UK welcoming the world; Inspiring and involving young people and Generating a positive legacy.

## People's £50 Million Lottery

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the bidding process for funds from the People's £50 Million Lottery, broken down by proposed project. [175395]

**James Purnell:** No funds were allocated to any of the 33 projects that applied to the People's Millions programme, other than the development funding allocated to the six projects that progressed to Stage 2 of the application process.

The projects received development funding designed to meet the costs incurred in developing their projects to meet the stage 2 application requirements of the People's Millions programme. The money was used to pay for the project summary against the programme priorities, business plan, stakeholder management plan, feasibility study, project execution plan, detailed costs plans, funding strategy, risk register and management plan, detailed design brief, outline design, procurement strategy and planning consent.

Development funding was one of the unique features of the People's Millions. It was put in place to provide applicants with the necessary support to develop their plans. The intention was that, where projects were not successful they would, as a result of the development funding, be in a much improved position to seek funding from other sources because their project had progressed further.

Following is the breakdown of the individual projects development funding:

| | *Received (£)* |
|---|---|
| Black Country Consortium Ltd.: A Million People—Black Country as an Urban Park | 499,939 |
| Eden Project: The Edge | 500,000 |
| Nottingham county council: Sherwood Forest—The Living Legend | 500,000 |
| Sustrans: Connect 2 | 500,000 |
| Somerset county council: Waterlinks | 500,000 |
| The board of trustees of the Science Museum: Inspired | 500,000 |

## Portable Antiquities Scheme

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's proposal not to increase the funding of the Portable Antiquities Scheme on reporting of finds; and if he will make a statement. [175278]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and so any decisions on its future funding are a matter for the MLA.

The MLA intends to maintain current levels of support for 2008-09, while considering options for future funding in the context of wider priorities for museum collections and public participation. It is for the MLA and PAS to determine how best to use the resources available.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of jobs at the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) of the plans of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council not to increase the PAS's funding. [175279]

**Margaret Hodge:** I have made no assessment of the effect on the number of jobs at the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) of the plans of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) to maintain funding for PAS next year at its current level. The PAS is funded by the MLA and so any decisions on its future funding are a matter for the MLA. The MLA intends to maintain current levels of support for 2008-09, while considering options for future funding in the context of wider priorities for museum collections and public participation.

## Sport

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria are used to determine whether an activity constitutes a sport; and if he will make a statement. [174644]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Sport England's criteria for funding sport, under the Government's current Public Service Agreement (PSA 3), recognises those sports and moderate intensity physical activities which have positive health and wider social benefits.

Sport England is currently developing a new strategy to build a world class community sports infrastructure for 2008-11. As part of this work, it is considering what activities should fall within its remit to fund sport.

### Television: Licensing

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will extend the television licence fee concessionary scheme to refuge centres that shelter women and children from domestic violence. [172682]

**James Purnell** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Member for St. Helens, South (Mr. Woodward) on 9 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 45W.

### Tourism

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the expected number of foreign tourists coming to the UK in each year until 2013; and what proportion he estimates will be directly related to the Olympics. [174909]

**Margaret Hodge:** VisitBritain's latest forecasts are that the numbers of inbound visitors to the UK will be 31.7 million for 2007, and 32.3 million for 2008. The proportions of these totals which represent Olympic-related visitors are negligible for these years, at this stage of the preparations for the London games.

VisitBritain advises DCMS that numerical forecasts for later years, based on average international growth rates, are not reliable. This is due to the variety of factors which affect visitor levels to particular countries. DCMS agrees with that position.

Olympic-related visitor growth rates were projected in The Value of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to UK Tourism, a study jointly commissioned by VisitBritain and Visit London in September 2007. The study projects Olympic-related increases and decreases in total visitor numbers to the UK as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2011 | -1.0 |
| 2012 | +3.0 |
| 2013 | +1.5 |
| 2014-17 | +1.0 a year |

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Departmental Data Protection

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many electronic databases held by his Department contain *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information of members of the general public; and when each such electronic database was created. [172329]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department does not record in its electronic databases personal information about members of the general public. Personal information, including names, addresses and bank details is only recorded in respect of customers of the Department. In particular, bank details are only recorded where this is required in order to process claims for benefit, make payments or carry out other financial transactions. The Department lawfully records personal data in many different types of electronic database. Details of these are not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many security breaches regarding access to personal data have occurred within his Department in each year since 1997; [172330]

(2) how many staff have access to electronic databases held by his Department, which contain personal information on members of the general public, broken down by grade; [172331]

(3) how many times databases held by his Department, containing personal information on members of the general public have been accessed in each month for the last five years; [172332]

(4) what provisions his Department has in place to ensure that databases containing personal information on members of the general public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised steps and *(b)* for unauthorised purposes. [172334]

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what categories of claimants have their records protectively marked as supervisor access only by his Department. [171972]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests his Department has received from the National Audit Office for access to databases containing personal information on members of the general public in each year since 1997. [172333]

**Mrs. McGuire:** As required under the National Audit Office Act of 1983 and the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000, the Department provides access to its records relating to the income, expenditure and liabilities appearing in the accounts. The National Audit Office has regular and routine access to all departmental records, including individual records which contain personal account data.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his

Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated cost of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines is. [170223]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies has four sets of Corporate Identity; the Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus, The Pension Service and the Child Support Agency. These guides are available to staff in electronic format copies have been placed in the House Library. The estimated total cost of producing these guidelines is £42,500.

Compliance with branding guidelines is the responsibility of all staff within the Department and as such providing an estimation of these costs across the Department can be made only at a disproportionate cost.

### Disabled Workers: Remploy

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed Remploy restructuring on disabled workers in Teesside; what steps he plans to take to ensure the economic security of such workers; and if he will make a statement. [171858]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Remploy carried out a full equality impact assessment on the modernisation proposals. A full account of the assessment can be found on Remploy's website at www.remploy.co.uk and a copy is being placed in the House Library.

I have also given an assurance that there will be no compulsory redundancies for disabled employees and they can continue to enjoy their current terms and conditions with Remploy, as well as membership of the pension scheme.

During individual consultations, Remploy's disabled employees will be given a range of options, including a suitable alternative job, if they wish. The company will monitor the progress of those disabled people supported into jobs with mainstream employers, to ensure suitability and provide further support if necessary.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department monitors the effectiveness of those medical assessments used in determining eligibility for incapacity benefit; in how many cases the outcomes of those medical assessments were appealed against in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [165059]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department monitors the effectiveness of the medical assessments through the rigorous monitoring of performance against contractual targets and standards, covering a variety of aspects relating to throughput, quality and customer service. Information about appeals against the outcomes of medical assessments is in the following table.

*Appeals lodged against the incapacity benefit (IB) personal capability assessment (PCA)*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 40,770 |
| 2001-02 | 47,470 |
| 2002-03 | 53,130 |
| 2003-04 | 56,510 |
| 2004-05 | 54,580 |
| 2005-06 | 56,220 |

*Notes:*

1. All figures are subject to change as more up-to-date data become available.
2. Cases transferred on to the new appeals system G2 from 2006 may not have been updated on GAPS.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
5. IB and PCA figures are only available from 2000 onwards.
6. Figures are not available after 2005-06 as data are not available from the G2 processing system.

*Source:*

100 per cent. download of the Generic Appeals Processing System (GAPS).

### Sick Leave: Arthritis

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of working days lost due to rheumatoid arthritis in each of the last five years; and at what overall cost to the economy. [172906]

**Ann Keen:** I have been asked to reply.

We have made no estimate of the number of working days lost due to rheumatoid arthritis. Information on the overall cost to the economy of rheumatoid arthritis is not collected.

### Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what categories of personal data relating to members of the public *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of his Department hold. [167673]

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which agencies and organisations have access to personal data held by his Department or its agencies; and which agencies and organisations were provided with such data in each of the last two years. [167998]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: The categories of personal data relating to members of the public held by the Department and its agencies, and the organisations and other agencies that are provided with personal data by the Department, are set out in the Department's formal registration with the Information Commissioner, and available on the Commissioner's public website:

www.ico.gov.uk.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* protocols govern the transfer of personal data by his Department to (i) other Government Departments, (ii) local authorities and (iii) Government agencies; [167679]

(2) on how many occasions CDs containing personal data of benefit recipients have been sent by his

Department to *(a)* other Government Departments, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* the National Audit Office in each of the last three years; and how many of those CDs were (i) encrypted and (ii) password protected. [167675]

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of benefit recipients whose personal details have been misdirected or mislaid by his Department or may otherwise be at risk of becoming victims of identity fraud due to error or omission by his Department in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [167544]

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws; [168071]

(2) on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168264]

(3) how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168286]

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168461]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168821]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's Agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168834]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169381]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170242]

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* safeguards his Department and its agencies have in place to ensure the secure storage and transfer of personal information about benefit claimants; [167670]

(2) what procedures his Department put in place on *(a)* dealing with requests by and *(b)* transferring personal data to (i) other Government Departments, (ii) public bodies and (iii) others. [167671]

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168737]

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171422]

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what security breaches there have been at his Department's Newcastle office in relation to the personal data of those claiming benefits administered by local authorities; and if he will make a statement; [171238]

(2) what assessment he has made of the security of the data-sharing processes between local authorities and his Department; and whether any data have been compromised during such procedures in the last five years. [171240]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Social Services: Autism

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* training is provided to social services staff dealing with people with autism. [173544]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

"Better services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice" was published on 16 November 2006. It clarifies the nature and intent of existing Government policy as it relates to adults with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This guidance is available to social services staff dealing with people with autism. A copy is available in the Library.

It is for local authorities to provide training and guidance for social services staff, taking into consideration locally identified needs and priorities, and assessments of individuals.

### State Retirement Pensions: Females

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many divorced women receive a state retirement pension; what estimate he has made of the number of these who have enhanced their pension by substituting the national insurance record of their ex-husband; by what means his Department informs divorced women of their right to make such a substitution for the period of their marriage; what assistance his Department gives to such women unable to supply their ex-husband's national insurance number; and if he will make a statement. [175487]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Information on the numbers of divorced women in receipt of state pension is not available as information on marital status is not required for payment of benefit.

At the new claim stage if a claim form shows that a woman is divorced, and does not have 100 per cent. basic state pension in her own right, substitution is automatically considered, subject to establishing the ex-husband's national insurance record and details. The customer is notified of the award and how her state pension was calculated, including any substitution calculation.

If divorce occurs after the award of state pension, the customer should inform the Pension Service of her change of circumstances as advised on the entitlement notice. If appropriate a substitution calculation will be automatically considered.

If the customer is unable to provide the national insurance number for her ex-husband the Pension Service will try to trace the details using their name, date of birth and last known address. If this proves unsuccessful they write to the customer to inform her of the situation and to request any other information which could assist them. In the rare event that all tracing methods prove unsuccessful they would be unable to perform the substitution.

### State Retirement Pensions: Personal Records

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of state pensions have had their personal data disclosed to third parties in error in the last two years. [172720]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Mr. Waterson) on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 517W.

In addition, there was an incident in July 2007, where 7,800 state pension customers were sent a cheque payment intended for another customer.

In each case, prompt action was taken to apologise, and replace cheques where appropriate so as to minimise the impact on these pensioners. The Information Commissioner was informed.

## TRANSPORT

### A14: Cambridge

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects contractors to be appointed in relation to the upgrading of the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon; and if she will make a statement. [174391]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The appointment of the contractors for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement scheme is planned for early in the new year.

### A30: Bodmin

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department is carrying out into the possibility of dualling the A30 between Temple and Bodmin. [174379]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** the Highways Agency is not currently working on any plans to improve this section of road as the South West region did not identify the scheme as a priority in their regional funding allocation advice.

We are planning to ask the regions in 2008 to look at their priorities again and come back and tell us whether those priorities have changed.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of road safety on the A30 between Temple and Bodmin. [174380]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency continually monitors safety on its roads with a view to implementing improvements as priority allows. The accident rate for this length of the A30 is slightly less than the national average for single carriageways. No accident cluster-sites have been identified within this length.

### A303: Public Participation

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the total cost has been to her Department and its predecessors of all *(a)* public enquiries, *(b)* consultations, *(c)* consultancy fees, *(d)* public exhibitions, *(e)* information initiatives, *(f)* publicity and *(g)* other costs in connection with proposals to upgrade the A303(T) from Countess Road roundabout to west of Chicklade since 1986; [173997]

(2) what the total cost has been to her Department and its predecessors of *(a)* public enquiries, *(b)* consultations, *(c)* public information initiatives, *(d)* consultancy fees and *(e)* other costs incurred in connection with the A303(T) trunk road improvement project and the proposed new visitors' centre at Stonehenge since 1986. [174092]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: The length of A303(T) from Countess Roundabout to west of Chicklade covers three potential major schemes: Stonehenge Improvement, Wylye to Stockton Wood Improvement and Chicklade Bottom to Mere Improvement.

It is not possible to allocate precise figures to the categories of expenditure the hon. Member requested because Highways Agency records are not broken down in that way, but in round terms, the total approximate cost of expenditure incurred since 1990 for public inquiries, consultation, consultancy fees, public exhibitions, information initiatives, publicity and other costs in connection with proposals to upgrade these schemes is £21.85 million.

The Stonehenge Visitor Centre proposal is a separate project led by English Heritage. The Highways Agency is therefore, unable to provide this cost information.

### A303: Stonehenge

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost was of the proposed northern route to divert road traffic from Stonehenge. [174378]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The estimated cost of the Northern Route option for improving the A303 past Stonehenge was £317 million, assuming a start of construction in 2010 and a forecast inflation rate of 4.5 per cent. per annum beyond a price base of 2006. This information is available in the Scheme Review—Stage 2 Report, published on the Department for Transport website.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost has been to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency of preparatory work on the A303 Stonehenge improvement scheme since July 2005. [174382]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Since July 2005, the Department of Transport and the Highways Agency have incurred costs of £2.5 million in undertaking further work related to the A303 Stonehenge Improvement scheme. This figure excludes the time of departmental officials which cannot be separately identified.

### Airports

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to bring forward secondary legislation to make *(a)* Luton airport and *(b)* other airports designated airports. [174842]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Independent Review of Airport Policing completed last year, concluded that the current system of designation of airports for police purposes was outdated and unfit for purpose. The Government fully accepted this finding. We are working with stakeholders to deliver a solution which ensures that airports and the police can work together to identify where a police presence might be required and how industry will pay for this. This will require a legislative solution.

### Airports: Heathrow

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely economic effects of the proposed expansion of Heathrow on *(a)* BAA airlines and aviation-related industries, *(b)* businesses working on the expansion of the airport, *(c)* London residents and *(d)* people outside London. [171790]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The economic assessment of additional capacity at Heathrow is set out at Annex B of the consultation document 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' (November 2007). The current approach does not take into account the benefits to airlines of additional capacity over and above the welfare benefits to its passengers. It also excludes benefits to businesses working on the expansion of the airport.

The analysis suggests that a third runway at Heathrow would generate around £17.1 billion worth of economic benefits in terms of net present value. We have not separately quantified how the benefits are distributed between Londoners and people outside London.

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the proposed Heathrow expansion would result in an increase in the number of night flights. [171804]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The existing night flights regime lasts until 2012. This provides for no increase in the number of movements and a gradual reduction in noise as quieter aircraft are introduced. Decisions on the night regime to apply beyond 2012 will be subject to separate consultation and do not depend on the capacity of runways.

### Aviation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the contribution made to the UK economy by transit passengers using UK airports in the last period for which figures are available. [168666]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This information is not available.

### Aviation: Noise

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is considering to improve the reliability of measurement of aircraft noise. [170697]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Annual aircraft noise contours—which connect points having the same average noise exposure—are produced for the Department by the Environmental Research and Consultancy Department (ERCD) of the Civil Aviation Authority. Contours are generated by a computer model validated against actual noise measurements in line with latest internationally recommended guidance.

Future predictions, such as the contours for various possible scenarios in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow airport consultation, rely on assumptions about the likely fleet mix and are therefore necessarily indicative. I am nevertheless satisfied that ERCD's noise modelling, whether historical or prospective, is reliable and robust.

## Aviation: Railways

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on the demand for domestic flights of constructing new high-speed rail lines in the UK. [170713]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has made no detailed quantitative assessment of the effect on the demand for domestic flights of constructing new high speed rail lines in the UK.

The Government recognise that rail can provide a useful alternative to air travel especially over shorter distances. But many domestic flights provide connections into the international network at airports such as Heathrow, providing benefits to the UK regions and helping to maintain UK competitiveness.

## Cars: Exhaust Emissions

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to encourage more people to buy environmentally friendly cars since 1997. [170282]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Incentives to encourage the purchase of cleaner vehicles include:

Vehicle Excise Duty, which is graduated according to a car's $CO_2$ emissions;

Company Car Tax, which is also geared to $CO_2$ emissions;

and

the cost of fuel.

These incentives relate to running costs rather than purchase cost but they have a direct effect as considerations when purchasing a vehicle. In March 2007 the Department for Transport launched the Act On $CO_2$ communications campaign providing information to consumers on purchasing new cars including the 'Best on $CO_2$' top 10 rankings in association with What Car? This reinforces the introduction of more informative labelling in car showrooms in 2005.

## Christmas

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is her Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173494]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport has no specific policy on this matter. However, where use is permitted all such items must be subject to portable appliance testing. In addition, items must be fixed securely, switched off overnight and should not have trailing wires.

## Crossrail Line

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect the decision to fund Crossrail has had on the status of other *(a)* road and *(b)* rail projects. [163301]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Crossrail has formed a key element of the Department for Transport's infrastructure investment plans for several years. As such, confirmation of the funding package has not affected plans in other areas.

## Crossrail Line: Maidenhead

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of extending Crossrail from Maidenhead to Reading; whether the upgrade of Reading station has had an effect on that cost; and what estimate she has made of the cost of adapting Maidenhead as the station at the end of the Crossrail line. [174384]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The current capital cost estimate of extending Crossrail from Maidenhead to Reading is approximately £360 million in outturn prices.

The effect of the Reading upgrade project, which also includes re-signalling from Maidenhead to Reading, would be to reduce the cost of extending Crossrail to Maidenhead by approximately £50 million in outturn prices. The vast majority of that cost reduction would stem from the re-signalling works; only a small part of it relates to works at Reading station itself.

The current capital cost estimate of the Crossrail works at Maidenhead station is approximately £70 million in outturn prices.

## Cycling

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what action the Government have taken to encourage more people to ride bicycles to work since 1997. [170283]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government remain firmly committed to increasing cycling as it is a healthy, environmentally friendly transport mode.

We have taken many initiatives to encourage increases in cycling including some specific measures to increase cycling to work since 1997. These include encouraging local authorities who are responsible for the roads on which most cycling takes place to develop local cycling strategies and improved cycle networks through increased Local Transport Plan settlements. Local authorities outside London increased their spend on cycling, from £29.5 million in 2001-02 to £36 million in 2005-06. A report for Cycling England in 2004 showed over 80 per cent. of local authorities had improved their performance in providing facilities for cyclists.

We have doubled Cycling England's budget to £10 million last year and launched the new national cycle training standard in England 'Bikeability'.

Cycling England have established the six cycling demonstration towns and many of them are working with employers to encourage cycling to work.

Employers also have a part to pay in encouraging their staff to cycle to work. Secure cycle parking, showers and changing facilities can support Government initiatives such as the group consumer credit licence we have made available to all UK businesses to enable employers to purchase cycles for their employees to cycle to work and take advantage of tax savings. Around 70,000 people are already participating in the scheme.

### Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months. [171252]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport (central) and five of its agencies currently do not record travel expenditure by class of travel. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The two agencies which do record this information between them spent £12,291 on Business Class air travel and nothing on First Class air travel in the last 12 months.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by her Department on international flights in each year since it was established. [174353]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in her Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate she has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172266]

(2) how many air miles were travelled by *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* Ministers in her Department on short haul flights over the last year; and what estimate she has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172453]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code"

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All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

### Departmental Disclosure of Information

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data her Department *(a)* shares, *(b)* is in discussion to share and *(c)* has been approached in the last 12 months to share with other Government Departments; and which Departments have requested information. [163299]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport takes the issues of privacy and data security extremely seriously, and keeps its policies on data sharing under active review.

*The Department for Transport shares the following main categories of data with Government Departments (for reasons of national security, some data may not be included):*

Driver details (as it appears on the driving licence); Vehicle registration details (including vehicle keeper data); Personal data of property owners who might claim compensation payments when highways schemes are developed, Driver trainer details; Driving applicant details including test results; Type approval data (e.g. vehicle type, subject approval, manufacturers details, enforcement reports); Names of departmental and DfT stakeholder contact details for both work and out of hours; Defence and Civil Contingency Planning; Hydrographic data of UK seabed; Automatic Identification System for ships (AIS) including Vessel details; Seafarer data and statistics; Maritime vessels using Halon; UK Ships Register; Shipping company and vessel details for Tonnage Tax (e.g. vessel name, flag state, vessel IMO number, training commitment).

*The Department has arrangements to share the aforementioned categories of data as applicable and relevant with specific Government Departments in the following list (again, for reasons of national security, some data may not be included):*

Cabinet Office
Crown Prosecution Service
Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Children Schools and Families
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
Department of Health
Department for Work and Pensions
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Forestry Commission
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
Home Office
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice

Some data sharing also relates directly to the fact that Departments are also employers. As such, they will pass on personal data to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for tax collection purposes; when one of their employees moves to another Government Department, they may also pass personal information on to that Department; they also pass on to the Office of National Statistics the results of human resources statistical surveys. Some staff contact details are shared through the Government Secure Intranet directory.

The Department also gathers and produces a large amount of non-personal statistical data on travel and transport, and these are published on the DfT website.

The Department may have responded to other one off requests in the last 12 months for particular data from other Departments. These are dealt with on a case by case basis in the light of the legal requirements and any relevant policy considerations.

The Department for Transport is having ongoing discussions with other Government Departments such as the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Department for Work and Pensions on how to further advance the Service Transformation Programme (December 2006) and the Government Vision for Information Sharing (September 2006).

Finally, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement. I also refer the hon. Member to the statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 626-6 by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on measures to improve the security of personal data.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff work in her Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174960]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are 13 members of staff in the ministerial support unit and parliamentary branch at the Department for Transport. Of these, three spend 90 per cent. of their time dealing with parliamentary questions and eight spend approximately 80 per cent. of their time dealing with correspondence from hon. Members and peers.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171537]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The following table demonstrates how much the Department and its Agencies have spent in the last three years on end of year bonus payments. We have interpreted these to be performance related pay bonuses which are paid in line with Government policy.

Figures prior to 2004-05 can be produced only at disproportionate costs.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,742,136 |
| 2005-06 | 6,872,430 |
| 2006-07 | 9,948,684 |

*Note:*

These figures exclude: GCDA and DVLA in 2004/05. GCDA only became an agency in 2005 and figures for DVLA in 2004-05 are not available; and VOSA as bonus payment data can be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Buildings

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of new buildings approved by her Department were built to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method *(a)* very good and *(b)* excellent standard in each of the last five years; and what the construction cost of those buildings was. [172294]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The following data are representative of the new build projects undertaken by the Department for Transport over the last five years.

| | *Build projects* | *BREEAM rating* | *Construction cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 2 | 2 x very good | 5.3 |
| 2004 | 3 | [1]— | 13 |
| 2005 | 1 | 1 x very good | 2.4 |
| 2006 | 1 | 1 x excellent | 13.5 |
| 2007 | 9 | 8 x excellent, 1 x very good | 38.2 |

[1] No assessments undertaken

### Departmental Railway Travel

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171265]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport and five of its agencies do not record rail travel expenditure by class of travel. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The two agencies which do record this information between them spent £2,236,283 on first class rail travel in the last 12 months.

### Driving Under Influence

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government are taking to reduce the incidence of drink-driving on UK roads. [175042]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government are committed to reducing drinking and driving through a combination of effective law enforcement, maintenance of a tough penalties regime and continuing investment in high-profile national publicity campaigns.

We have already given the police new powers to carry out evidential roadside breath testing, subject to type approval of appropriate equipment. This is supported by a number of other measures in the Road Safety Act 2006 which are designed to deter drink driving and reduce reoffending.

These include enabling powers to require serious, including repeat, offenders to retake the driving test at the end of their period of disqualification; to improve the operation of the drink drive rehabilitation scheme; to close certain loopholes in the law relating to high risk offenders; and to establish a statutory alcohol ignition interlock programme.

We have recently launched the THINK! 2007 Christmas drink drive publicity campaign which is running in parallel with the seasonal police enforcement campaign. This is a multi-media campaign based around the Moment of Doubt commercial launched this summer, which emphasises the very serious consequences of being convicted for drink driving and provides a powerful deterrent message for potential drink drivers.

We also intend to consult widely on further measures for tackling drink driving, including ways of making police enforcement easier, and are aiming to publish a consultation paper in the early part of 2008.

### Highways Agency

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average pay increase proposed for the Highways Agency's traffic officers in the 2007 pay round is; and what the retail price index inflation rate at the end of the 2006-07 pay year was. [173610]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency is proposing an increase of 5 per cent. for the control room operators and 3.5 per cent. for the on-road traffic officers. The retail price index inflation rate for July 2007 was 3.8 per cent. and the consumer price index rate, which is used by Government, was 1.9 per cent.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the morale of traffic officers within the Highways Agency; and if she will make a statement. [173613]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The last agency staff survey in December 2006 did not ask a specific question about morale in the traffic officer service.

However the survey did ask the question "How satisfied are you with the Highways Agency as a place to work?". The figures in response to this question were— 65 per cent. of traffic officers gave a positive response to the question, while 15 per cent. gave a negative response. 20 per cent. were neither satisfied or dissatisfied.

**Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of *(a)* traffic officers and *(b)* other Highways Agency staff expressed confidence in the agency board in the last staff survey. [173614]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The last Highways Agency staff survey in December 2006 did not include a question about confidence in the Agency's board.

### London Bridge Station: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure co-ordination of the upgrade work on London Bridge station and Thameslink in order to minimise disruption to passengers. [174320]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The upgrade of London Bridge station is part of the Thameslink programme. Network Rail has set up a dedicated project team to deliver the necessary infrastructure enhancements, and will be working closely with train operating companies, TfL, and passenger groups to ensure that disruption to passengers is minimised.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of upgrading London Bridge station. [174322]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The upgrade to London Bridge station forms part of the Thameslink programme, which will be delivered by Network Rail. Construction costs for London Bridge are expected to be around £400 million. There are also management and compensation costs which apply to the Thameslink programme as a whole and which are not allocated to individual elements of the project.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the upgrade of London Bridge station to start; how long she estimates the upgrade to take; and if she will place in the Library the contracts that have been let in relation to the upgrade. [174383]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The works at London Bridge will be delivered by Network Rail, whose current programme shows that preliminary work will start in 2011, substantive works will start after the London Olympics, and the station works will complete during 2015.

All contracts regarding the upgrade of London Bridge station have been managed and let by Network Rail (and its predecessor organisation Railtrack). As Network Rail is not a public body it is not possible to place any contracts in the Library.

### Metronet

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to be in a position to estimate public sector financial impacts of Metronet not fulfilling its contract on the London Underground; and what her policy is on the timetable for considering proposals on tackling such impacts. [170014]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement sets out the expected levels of Transport for London grant and borrowing to 2017-18 and makes provision for costs arising from Metronet's administration. It is now for Transport for London to manage their costs and priorities within their overall financial envelope.

### Network Grant New: Wales

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimated proportion of the budget for Network Grant New is to be spent in Wales in 2007-08. [168362]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Government direct grants to Network Rail (NR) are not allocated to the company on a regional or territorial basis. However, historic expenditure by NR on rail infrastructure on a route by route basis, including those parts of the network in Wales, are published in NR's Annual Return which is available on their website at:

www.networkrail.co.uk.

### Network Rail: Cost Effectiveness

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funds will accrue to her Department as a result of any cost efficiencies achieved by Network Rail. [164634]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** No funds will accrue to the Department. Any Network Rail efficiency savings in excess of those required by the Office of Rail Regulation in setting Network Rail's income are re-invested by the company in the railway or used to reduce its debt.

### Public Transport: Elderly

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to increase accessibility of public transport for elderly and disabled people. [174162]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There has been significant progress in making public transport accessible to elderly and disabled people through regulations made under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. For a number of years all new buses, coaches and trains have had to meet accessibility standards and 58 per cent. of buses and over 40 per cent. of trains now do so. The entire national fleet of buses must meet accessibility standards by 2017, and trains by 2020.

We have made available £370 million to Network Rail to improve station accessibility by 2015, with over 90 stations already identified for improvement by 2011.

In December 2006 we extended civil rights to disabled people so that they can expect to be treated fairly and without discrimination when using land-based public transport. We have also been working at the international level to improve accessibility to air transport.

As well as physical accessibility, we are addressing elderly and disabled peoples' concerns by improving concessionary fares provision. Since 1 April 2006, people aged 60 and over and disabled people have been entitled to free bus travel within their local authority area from 9.30 am Monday to Friday and all day at weekends. The statutory minimum concession will be extended to allow free off-peak travel on local buses anywhere in England from 1 April 2008.

### Public Transport: Safety Measures

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to improve passenger safety on public transport since 1997. [174161]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government, the transport industry, local authorities and others are investing in and undertaking wide-ranging initiatives to improve the personal security of transport staff and passengers.

Since 1997, the Government have developed and introduced the Secure Stations Scheme, which is designed to improve personal security at overground and underground rail stations. Guidance has also been issued to the rail industry on how to improve personal security on trains.

The Safer Travel on buses and coaches Panel (STOP) was set up in 2002. The panel is currently working on an update to earlier guidance it has produced, in the form of a toolkit that will help local authorities and operators tackle antisocial behaviour on buses.

A range of good practice guidance has been produced to interested parties who are involved in reducing crime and the fear of crime on the public transport system. This includes guidance on how best to use the legal system, and a guide to protecting bus and coach crews. We are also continuing to encourage Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) to help tackle crime committed on public transport.

### Railway Track

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport further to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 20W, on railway track, which 13 properties BRBR have disposed of which contain disused railway lines. [174321]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The locations of the properties in question, along with details of the purchaser are as follows.

| *Property* | *Note* |
|---|---|
| Awre (Gloucs) | Auction |
| Brize Norton | Sale to Sustrans |
| Cassington (Oxon) | Sale to Sustrans |
| Collyhurst (Manchester) | Auction |
| Cranmore | Sale to East Somerset Railway |
| Dalston (London) | Auction |
| Darite (Cornwall) | Sale to Sustrans |
| Greetland (W. Yorks) | Auction |
| Lechlade | Sale to Sustrans |
| Montrose | Auction |
| Paisley | Sale to adjoining owner |
| Sennybridge (Powys) | Auction |
| Ynysybwl (South Wales) | Sale to Sustrans |

### Railways: Reading

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of electrification of the railway between Reading and Maidenhead. [174377]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) has carried out a study of the costs and benefits of electrification, including the Great Western Main Line. Although Reading to Maidenhead was not estimated separately, a cost in the order of £50-£70 million could be expected for this section of route on the basis of the rates used.

### Railways: Standards

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 430W, on railways: standards, how many passengers provided feedback to the ergonomic study relating to *(a)* medical matters and *(b)* comfort; and how the customer feedback was obtained. [175153]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The ergonomic study was carried out by Stagecoach South Western Trains Ltd. The hon. Member should direct his inquiry to:

Stewart Plamer, Esq.
Managing Director
Stagecoach South Western Ltd.
Friars Bridge Court
41-45 Blackfrairs Road
London
SE1 8NZ

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of road traffic accidents in West Chelmsford constituency resulted from *(a)* speeding, *(b)* excessive alcohol consumption and *(c)* drug abuse in each of the last three years. [174334]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not available at constituency level.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to reduce the incidence of road deaths and serious injuries arising from road traffic accidents among young people in Cumbria. [175364]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government announced in February, the intention fundamentally to review the driver testing and training system with the aim of improving the way driving is taught and assessed as part of the Government's effort to reduce all road casualties. Work continues to inform this and we plan to consult publicly as soon as practicable.

The Department continues to campaign on road safety issues relevant to young drivers. For example, we are running a Christmas drink-driving campaign based on new material launched this summer and we have revived an influential rear seat belt wearing TV commercial.

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* involving road freight on the (i) M1, (ii) M2, (iii) M6, (iv) M20, (v) M25, (vi) M60, (vii) M62, (viii) A14 and (ix) A1(M) in each of the last five years. [175484]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The total number of road traffic accidents including the number involving road freight is not available.

The total number of road traffic accidents that have resulted in personal injury (PIAs) in each of the last five years and the number involving at least one heavy goods vehicle (HGV), that is a vehicle over 3.5 tonnes gross weight, on the M1, M2, M6, M20, M25, M60, M62, A1(M), A1, and A14 are shown in the following tables.

*All PIA accidents*

| *Road* | *M1* | *M2* | *M6* | *M20* | *M25* | *M60* | *M62* | *A1(M)* | *A1* | *A14* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 1,430 | 69 | 1,058 | 180 | 1,227 | 239 | 411 | 219 | 826 | 400 | 6,059 |
| 2003 | 1,403 | 91 | 993 | 189 | 1,136 | 233 | 482 | 189 | 838 | 383 | 5,937 |
| 2004 | 1,351 | 104 | 1,122 | 203 | 1,239 | 245 | 433 | 158 | 823 | 402 | 6,080 |
| 2005 | 1,333 | 90 | 1017 | 207 | 1,254 | 221 | 431 | 201 | 757 | 383 | 5,894 |
| 2006 | 1,146 | 89 | 961 | 210 | 1,083 | 245 | 411 | 282 | 680 | 334 | 5,441 |
| Total | 6,663 | 443 | 5,151 | 989 | 5,939 | 1,183 | 2,168 | 1,049 | 3,924 | 1,902 | 29,411 |

*HGV PIA accidents*

| *Road* | *M1* | *M2* | *M6* | *M20* | *M25* | *M60* | *M62* | *A1(M)* | *A1* | *A14* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 427 | 10 | 325 | 70 | 431 | 51 | 113 | 68 | 205 | 145 | 1,845 |
| 2003 | 387 | 21 | 349 | 81 | 417 | 74 | 140 | 55 | 179 | 121 | 1,824 |
| 2004 | 407 | 23 | 406 | 99 | 426 | 56 | 150 | 41 | 190 | 142 | 1,940 |
| 2005 | 386 | 13 | 361 | 68 | 479 | 59 | 107 | 51 | 160 | 141 | 1,825 |
| 2006 | 356 | 13 | 351 | 74 | 397 | 67 | 108 | 63 | 136 | 121 | 1,686 |
| Total | 1,963 | 80 | 1,792 | 392 | 2,150 | 307 | 618 | 278 | 870 | 670 | 9,120 |

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving *(a)* cyclists, *(b)* pedestrians and *(c)* road freight occurred in England in each of the last five years, broken down by police authority area. [175486]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A table showing the number of reported personal injury road accidents involving *(a)* cyclists, *(b)* pedestrians and *(c)* goods vehicles that occurred in England in each of the last five years, broken down by police force area has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents there were involving Class 3 vehicles in each year since 2000. [175504]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport does not currently collect national data on the number of accidents involving class 3 vehicles. However, in 2006, the Department published research into the use of class two and three mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. Based on the evidence gathered, the Department does not believe that class 3 vehicles have a significant impact upon road safety at this point in time but continues to monitor the situation.

### South West Trains

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of changes in congestion on South West Trains rail services following the decision not to allow South West Trains use of old Eurostar platforms at Waterloo station; and if she will make a statement. [173279]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** A decision not to allow Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) rail services to make use of Waterloo International terminal has not been made.

It is primarily the railway infrastructure outside Waterloo that limits the number of trains that can use the station rather than the number of platforms. Therefore the need is to run longer trains rather than more trains. So we are planning a large scheme to make all the platforms long enough to accommodate 10 and 12 car trains and to modify the junction layout on the approaches to the station. Such a scheme would allow the use of up to 50 per cent. longer trains than currently use the short platforms and would result in a large increase in capacity. The scheme also presents opportunities at Waterloo International to reconfigure the passenger circulation space and the interchange with other transport modes, and to better integrate the station into the surrounding area. Such an ambitious scheme requires very detailed planning to make the most of this unique opportunity.

In order to make the best use of the facility in the meantime, the Department is working closely with Network Rail and SSWT to finalise the design and costs of the partial conversion of Waterloo International to accommodate some domestic services. Therefore some services could use platform 20 of Waterloo International from the timetable change date in December 2008.

### Thameslink Railway Line: Consultants

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on consultants for work relating to the Thameslink programme since 1998. [175405]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Prior to July 2005, the Strategic Rail Authority managed the Thameslink project who spent approximately £5.9 million on consultants.

The Department took over the project from the SRA in July 2005, since when it has spent £1.3 million on consultants.

### Transport

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to understand the travel *(a)* needs, *(b)* behaviour and *(c)* aspirations of each section of the community. [174163]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department for Transport's aim is transport that works for everyone. It is committed to understanding the transport needs of all social groups and has a wide-ranging programme of work to support this.

In June 2007, the Department published an evidence-based review on mobility, which looked at travel choices, behaviour and attitudes, as well as barriers to travel and measures to overcome barriers for different social groups, including children and young people, adults on low income, those living in rural areas, black and minority ethnic groups, women, disabled people and older people.

In November 2007, the Department also published two research reports looking at travel needs, behaviours and aspirations of older people and young adults.

These reports can be found on the Department for Transport's website.

Further research is also currently being undertaken on disabled people's travel needs, behaviours and aspirations.

### Transport for London: Finance

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007 to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet, *Official Report*, columns 605-6W, on Transport for London: finance, what assessment she has made of the effect on the grant and borrowing totals in each year of the entry of Metronet into administration. [172074]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement sets out the expected levels of Transport for London grant and borrowing to 2017-18 and makes provision for costs arising from Metronet's administration. It is now for Transport for London to manage their costs and priorities within their overall financial envelope.

### Woodhead Tunnel

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will delay any decision on whether to allow cables to be laid in the southerly Woodhead tunnel until the publication of the final Yorkshire and Humber Route Utilisation Strategy. [172361]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The decision on whether to lay cables in the southerly Woodhead tunnel is a matter for National Grid, who owns the tunnel. National Grid's proposal would not preclude future consideration of reopening the route for rail use.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the Woodhead tunnel was taken out of railway use. [172362]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Woodhead route was taken out of use in 1981. This was because of the significant decline in coal and other heavy freight movements across the Pennines and the fact that an alternative route with spare capacity was available between Sheffield and Manchester.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential strategic significance of the Woodhead railway tunnel for improving transport links, with particular reference to targets for cutting carbon dioxide emissions. [172363]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** No assessment has been made of the potential strategic significance of the Woodhead route for transport uses. Additional capacity on trans-Pennine rail routes is being funded as part of the Government's £15 billion commitment to rail set out in the recent White Paper. The White Paper outlines the contribution rail is making towards reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has conducted an appraisal of the *(a)* costs and benefits and *(b)* the value for money of reopening the Woodhead tunnel to rail freight against the building of the Mottram-Tintwistle bypass through the Peak District National Park. [172364]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** No appraisal has taken place on the costs and benefits of re-opening the Woodhead tunnel to rail freight in the context of the proposed Mottram-Tintwistle bypass. The need for a bypass is driven by regional and local road traffic and environmental factors.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will intervene to prevent National Grid from implementing any plans to utilise the Woodhead tunnel for power cables and other purposes which would prevent the tunnel being able to be used in future for rail. [172365]

(2) if she will commit to safeguarding the trans-Pennine rail route with particular reference to the Woodhead tunnel for future rail use. [172366]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The decision on whether to lay cables in the southerly Woodhead tunnel is a matter for National Grid, who owns the tunnel. There is no case for the Secretary of State to intervene. National Grid's proposal would not preclude future consideration of reopening the route for rail use.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the compatibility of the reopening of the Woodhead tunnel with the *(a)* Delivering a Sustainable Railway White Paper, *(b)* Towards a Sustainable Transport System paper and *(c)* Eddington transport study. [172367]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The approach set out in Towards a Sustainable Transport System adopts many of the recommendations made by the Eddington transport study. Proposing a single solution, such as the re-opening of the Woodhead route, to a problem that has not been clearly identified is not compatible with the approach proposed in Towards a Sustainable Transport System or the Eddington report. The rail White Paper—Delivering a Sustainable Railway, published in July 2007 does not identify a need to re-open lines to deliver additional capacity.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to convert any of the Woodhead tunnels to road use. [172984]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* There are no plans to convert the Woodhead tunnels to road use.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what communications his Department has had with injured personnel who received their injuries during service in Afghanistan and Iraq since January 2001; and if he will make a statement. [168064]

**Derek Twigg:** From the point of wounding to discharge from medical care, the progress of all injured personnel is managed and monitored by the Defence Medical Services (DMS), to ensure that they receive appropriate treatment and care at every stage. Patients are kept informed of the progress of their treatment, and the likely course that it will take. Welfare staff and single service representatives also maintain the appropriate links between the patients and their home units when they are in hospital or receiving treatment elsewhere, such as at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court.

For those who have left the armed forces we have, since the beginning of 2007, put in place arrangements for the Department's Veterans Welfare Service to monitor those discharged with a seriously disabling injury; this covers cases of both physical and psychological injury. While this monitoring is primarily focused on welfare matters, the service will identify relevant sources of assistance where there is a medical issue.

Finally, Ministers themselves often meet injured personnel and their families, both when visiting operational theatres, and in medical facilities back in the UK.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* commanders and *(b)* foot soldiers surrendered to (i) the International Security Assistance Force and (ii) the Afghan National Army in each month during 2007. [172155]

**Des Browne:** The Ministry of Defence does not collect the information requested.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) who decided that details of the Musa Qaleh operation should not be released for reasons of operational security; [173960]

(2) what assessment he has made of whether the operational security of the Musa Qaleh operation was breached by the Sunday newspapers and by radio and television over the weekend of 8 and 9 December 2007. [173961]

**Des Browne:** It is MOD policy not to release details of future operations because this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. Media reporting over the weekend 8 to 9 December did not prejudice the conduct of the Musa Qaleh operation.

### Armed Forces

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average length of service of serving soldiers is; [174662]

(2) what the average age of retirement for a soldier was in the last period for which figures are available. [174712]

**Derek Twigg:** The average length of reckonable service for a serving Regular Army soldier as at 1 March 2007 is nine years and two months.

The average age of retirement for a Regular Army soldier on completion of service, based on the soldiers completing service between 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007, is 41 years and four months.

### Armed Forces: Cadets

**Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial contribution his Department has made to the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Sea and *(c)* Air Cadets for each of the last five financial years. [169807]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence has made the following financial contribution to the various cadet forces over the last five financial years:

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *Sea Cadets* | *Army Cadets* | *Air Cadets* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 8.9 | 37.1 | 22 |
| 2003-04 | 8.6 | 37.1 | 25 |
| 2004-05 | 8.9 | 35 | 27 |
| 2005-06 | 9.6 | 39.2 | 28 |
| 2006-07 | 8.9 | 46.2 | 31 |

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving military personnel have been treated as in-patients by the National Health Service over the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what proportion of those admittances were the result of incidents and accidents on frontline deployments. [170590]

**Derek Twigg:** Statistics are not held in the form requested. However, the most recent assessment by the Defence Medical Services of the number of military in-patients being treated at UK NHS hospitals on a particular day (1 November 2007) showed that there were 23 service in-patients being treated in NHS hospitals hosting Ministry of Defence hospital units (MDHUs), and 19 in-patients being treated under the auspices of the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) at Birmingham hospitals. A small number of military in-patients will also have been treated at other NHS hospitals. The precise number in this category on a particular day is not recorded centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We assess from earlier data collection that around a further 15 to 25 service personnel are treated as in-patients in NHS hospitals on a typical day, in addition to those in the hospitals hosting the RCDM and MDHUs.

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former servicemen and women are in care homes funded by his Department; and what his Department spent on this in 2006-07. [172891]

**Derek Twigg:** There are 70 war pensioners in care homes whose nursing care is funded by the Ministry of Defence. £3.03 million was spent funding this in 2006-07.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on providing private rented accommodation for service personnel including and above the rank of colonel and their families in each of the last six years. [173517]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table lists the amount that has been spent on providing Substitute Service Family Accommodation for the rank of Colonel and the equivalents in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force broken down for each of the last six years.

| | *Total (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 2.366 |
| 2003 | 2.216 |
| 2004 | 2.526 |
| 2005 | 2.964 |
| 2006 | 2.687 |
| 2007 up to and including 27 November | 1.874 |

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to facilitate owner-occupancy for young servicemen and women and their families. [170995]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) operates a Long Service Advance of Pay scheme that provides a loan to assist service personnel to enter the housing market. Since September 2006, in conjunction with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the MOD has negotiated Key Worker status for service personnel. This gives them access to the New Build HomeBuy and First Time Buyer Initiative schemes operating in the South, South East and East of England.

The MOD continues to look for innovative ways to work with the commercial sector to provide bespoke home buyer packages for service personnel who are encouraged to prepare for return to civilian life during their careers by purchasing their own homes. To further assist them, the Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) provides service personnel with advice and guidance on all forms of accommodation, public and private.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the reductions in his Department's housing budget on the standards of accommodation provided to service personnel. [171967]

**Derek Twigg:** The MOD is not reducing its spending on service housing accommodation. On the contrary, the Department has increased its expenditure on housing. Total expenditure in 2007-08 is currently forecast above that of 2006-07.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* maintenance, *(b)* refurbishment and *(c)* new build in relation to armed forces' accommodation in each of the last five years; what the projected expenditure is over the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [172310]

**Derek Twigg:** Although most expenditure on service accommodation is managed by Defence Estates (DE), some expenditure remains in the hands of other top level budget holders, or is contained within private finance initiative (PFI) and this could be separately identified only at disproportionate cost.

The identifiable costs, covering the requested activities but excluding expenditure in Northern Ireland and overseas, is shown in the following table (figures before 2002-03 are not available).

*£ million*

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maintenance of GB housing | 92.0 | 94.7 | 85.6 | 104.8 | 122.4 |
| Upgrade of GB housing to S1FC | n/a | 8.3 | 6.0 | 4.4 | 12.5 |
| New build-housing in GB and SLA | 50.7 | 156.7 | 299.1 | 241.0 | 235.7 |
| PFI expenditure | 10.6 | 17.4 | 19.3 | 19.1 | 21.0 |

*Note*
Standard 1 for Condition = S1FC
Single Living Accommodation = SLA.

Following the comprehensive spending review (CSR), budgets are currently being set for the next three years. However, the CSR has ring-fenced the £550 million investment on armed forces accommodation over the next three years. The Department has subsequently committed a further £80 million to Single Living Accommodation Modernisation phase 2 in addition to the £335 million programme previously announced.

### Armed Forces: Influenza

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions since 1 March 2005 his Department's officials have discussed with officials of *(a)* the Department of Health, *(b)* NATO and *(c)* the United States administration planning for a potential influenza pandemic; on what dates those discussions took place; what the content of the discussions was; and if he will make a statement. [172831]

**Derek Twigg:** The MOD has discussed pandemic influenza planning with officials from NATO and the United States Administration but no central record of the number of occasions was kept.

The MOD has regular meetings with Department of Health and Health Protection Agency (HPA) officials. An MOD Consultant Public Health Physician is a standing member of the HPA Influenza and Respiratory Programme Board, which meets monthly to discuss influenza pandemic issues such as the latest research, exercises, port health, vaccines, anti-virals and developments.

In addition, UK National preparations are being co-ordinated by the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS), whose role is to ensure that the UK is resilient in the event of a disruptive challenge such as pandemic flu. Cross-departmental pandemic flu planning has been under way since early-2005 through the MISC 32 Flu Working Group (FWG) which a representative from the MOD attends. At the last meeting of this group on 12 December 2007, the 23rd to be held, its name was changed to the Pandemic Flu Implementation Group (PFIG) to signify a step change in its work programme from policy development to policy implementation. Additionally, in the last two years there have been two cross-government pandemic flu exercises; 'Shared Goal'(held in 2006) and 'Winter Willow' (held during January and February this year). The Department was involved in both exercises as part of the central Government response, providing development assistance, personnel to man the COBR cell and Min(AF) representing the MOD at the ministerial Civil Contingencies Committee. In the case of Winter Willow, MOD additionally participated through Joint Regional Liaison Officers (JRLOs) engagement in regional exercise play.

### Armed Forces: Pay

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments there were to Armed Forces personnel in each month since January 2007; and at what cost. [168882]

**Derek Twigg:** The number of over, and underpayments made to armed forces personnel in each month since January 2007 are as follows:

| *Month* | *Overpaid* | *Underpaid* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 161 | 1,383 | 1,544 |
| February | 70 | 0 | 70 |
| March | 229 | 54 | 283 |
| April[1] | 13,908 | 252 | 14,160 |
| May[2] | 0 | 1,181 | 4,521 |
| June | 0 | 90 | 90 |
| July[3] | 2,978 | 416 | 3,394 |
| August[4] | 0 | 46,305 | 46,305 |

| *Month* | *Overpaid* | *Underpaid* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| September[5] | 0 | 722 | 4,971 |
| October | 213 | 50 | 263 |

The following notes specifically relate to months with 2,000+ over/underpayments:

[1] Following migration of Army data onto the JPA system, a decision was taken not to recover some elements until the migration process had been validated. Recovered in May.

[2] The majority of the underpayment were caused by University Officer Training Corps inputs. 3,340 minor errors were encountered due to the non migration of some data elements resulting in minor over or underpayments. Resolved in month.

[3] The majority of the overpayments (2,611) were due to double payment of the female clothing grant to reservists (£4.50), recovered in October.

[4] Comprised 35,553 incorrect deductions of £3.00 in respect of contributions to the discontinued Royal Navy and Royal Marines Dependants' Fund, and 10,752 underpayments of Home to Duty Travel claims for Royal Navy reservists. The former was re-credited to pay accounts in October, and the latter underpayments paid in September.

[5] 4,249 additional cases occurred where the incorrect rank on the Joint Personnel Administration system would have generated an incorrect payment. Corrective action was taken in time for the October pay run.

Details of the specific over and underpayments to individuals could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Error rates are expected to decrease as the professional users (unit admin, manpower specialists) gain familiarity with the system and undergo follow on training, consolidating their knowledge with lessons identified from the JPA project and formal user groups both single and tri-service.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the change was in military salaries measured against retail price index inflation in each financial year since 2001-02. [169472]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The percentage change year on year and the change in the retail prices index year on year were as follows:

|  |  | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
|  | *Change in the average salary* | *Change in RPI* |
| 2002-03 | 5.0 | 2.1 |
| 2003-04 | 6.2 | 2.8 |
| 2004-05 | 2.4 | 3.1 |
| 2005-06 | 4.2 | 2.6 |
| 2006-07 | 4.8 | 3.7 |

The percentage changes are reported to one decimal place.

The average salary per financial year from 2001-02 for military personnel has been calculated using (i) the number of full-time equivalent service personnel and (ii) the expenditure recorded in the department's accounts for service "salaries and wages". These figures include some allowances, such as separation allowance, and education allowance, which are included with pay.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel are part of the long service advance of pay scheme. [174473]

**Derek Twigg:** 11,800 personnel are members of the long service advance of pay scheme.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's budget is for telephone allowances as part of the deployment welfare package. [174501]

**Derek Twigg:** The Department does not have a specific budget ceiling for telephone allowances. Each eligible Service person is entitled to 30 minutes of publicly funded call time per week. The cost of this call time will vary according to whether the call is made on a cabin satellite telephone, an IRIDIUM satellite telephone, an INMARSAT telephone or by one of several other means and whether the call is made to a UK landline, mobile telephone or to an overseas destination. The amount paid will also vary dependent upon the amount of the allowance personnel use. Moreover, whilst telephone allowances for exercises and enduring tasks such as the Falkland Islands are paid for by the Department, the cost of the telephone allowance for personnel deployed on contingent operations, e.g. Iraq and Afghanistan, is met by HM Treasury and is not paid from the Ministry of Defence budget. For illustrative purposes only, the average amount paid to the welfare communications contractor for the second half of Financial Year 2006-2007, after the allowance had increased to 30 minutes, was £504,000 per month. This would equate to some £6 million per annum.

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average pay is for serving soldiers at each rank in the armed forces. [174661]

**Derek Twigg:** The average annual basic pay for trained armed forces' personnel at each rank or rank grouping, based on 2007 rates of pay, is shown in the following table.

| *Rank* | *Average salary (£)* |
|---|---|
| Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) | 221,923 |
| General | 158,320 |
| Lieutenant General | 122,085 |
| Major General | 98,504 |
| Brigadier | 87,667 |
| Colonel | 74,305 |
| Lieutenant Colonel | 64,879 |
| Major | 46,863 |
| Captain | 38,098 |
| Lieutenant/2nd Lieutenant | 26,171 |
| Warrant Officer I | 40,883 |
| Warrant Officer II/Staff Sergeant | 34,845 |
| Sergeant | 31,849 |
| Corporal | 28,019 |
| Lance Corporal/Private | 19,808 |

The figures refer to service personnel who are on the main pay scales and exclude specialist groups such as Chaplains, Veterinary Officers, Officers Promoted from the Ranks and Medical and Dental Officers. Basic pay refers to salary paid in accordance with an individual's rank, length of service and trade. Specialist pay, allowances and other payments have been excluded. For illustrative purposes Army ranks have been used.

All armed forces personnel are on incremental pay ranges. The above averages have been calculated by taking the pay bill for the incremental range for each rank or rank grouping and dividing by the number of service personnel on it.

The post of CDS has its own discrete pay range. Consequently the figure shown is an actual rate and not an average.

### Armed Forces: Prosthetics

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what prosthetic limbs his Department provides for servicemen and women for limbs lost in service. [172890]

**Derek Twigg:** Prosthetic limbs supplied are as follows:

| *Limb* | *Type* | *Manufacturer* |
|---|---|---|
| Knee | C-Leg | Otto Bock |
| Knee | Rheo Knee | Ossur |
| Knee | Smart IP | Blatchfords |
| Knee | Mercury | Blatchfords |
| Knee | Total Knee | Ossur |
| Knee | KX06 4-bar | Blatchfords |
| Knee | 3R95 | Otto Bock |
| Foot | Variflex | Ossur |
| Foot | Ceterus | Ossur |
| Foot | VSP | Ossur |
| Foot | Flexrun | Ossur |
| Foot | Flexfoot | Ossur |
| Foot | C-Sprint | Otto Bock |
| Foot | Elite | Blatchfords |
| Foot | Esprit | Blatchfords |
| Foot | C-Walk | Otto Bock |
| Upper limb | I-Limb | Touch Bionic |

### Armed Forces: Public Opinion

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* quantitative and *(b)* qualitative opinion research of (i) serving and (ii) former members of the armed forces; [173364]

(2) what use his Department has made of *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* other qualitative or quantitative opinion research of (i) serving and (ii) former members of the armed forces. [173365]

**Derek Twigg:** It is in the interests of the MOD to have a good understanding of the realities and concerns facing their personnel. The Ministry of Defence, therefore, conducts a wide variety of research among Serving personnel and former members of the armed forces using internal resources and through outside research and academic institutions.

These surveys and focus groups, which have been running in various forms for decades, can look at everything from attitudes about Service life to surveys that investigate physical and psychological health. The resulting data form part of the body of evidence that is used to inform the development of policies that better reflect the lives of Service personnel.

This Research is available across the MOD and Service areas but is not centrally administered so it is not possible to provide total costs for all surveys conducted without disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the original bidders for the Defence Training Rationalisation programme Package 2 will be invited to bid on the revised procurement strategy; [174183]

(2) whether the change in procurement strategy for the Defence Training Rationalisation Programme Package 2 will require *(a)* more time and *(b)* additional expenditure for the programme; [174239]

(3) what the proposed revised procurement strategy for the Defence Training Rationalisation Programme Package 2 is; whether the revised strategy was among the options initially considered; why the strategy initially chosen was not proceeded with; and if he will make a statement. [174240]

**Derek Twigg:** As I stated in my written ministerial statement on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 15 WS, Defence Training Rationalisation Package 2 is the subject of further work focusing on how best to improve our accommodation and training facilities to meet the strategic objectives of the Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme. A range of options are being considered from a conventional procurement to an adaptation to Metrix's original proposals. At this stage it would be inappropriate to provide further details on the cost, timescale or procurement strategy. However, I shall provide an update on the programme next year when this work has matured.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what has been the cost of the work carried out on the Defence Training Rationalisation programme Package 2 by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of the principal bidders. [174288]

**Derek Twigg:** To date the cost of Package 2 work carried out by the Department is approximately £11.5 million. The Department has no visibility of the cost incurred by the bidders.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the impact on the *(a)* capital and *(b)* running costs of the defence training rationalisation programme Package 1 of the elimination of Package 2 from consideration; and if he will make a statement. [174306]

**Derek Twigg:** As I stated in my written ministerial statement on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 15WS the Package 2 is the subject of further work focusing on how best to improve our accommodation and training facilities to meet the strategic objectives of the defence training review rationalisation programme. As both Packages remain contractually separate there is no impact on the costs of Metrix's Package 1 proposal as a result of this further work on Package 2.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours each day military units may train at the Otterburn training area. [174488]

**Derek Twigg:** Units may train on the Otterburn Training Area for a total of 300 days per year. During that time dry training (no live firing) can be conducted over the full 24-hour period, seven days a week. Live firing is restricted within the 300 day period as follows:

| | *Times* |
|---|---|
| Summer | 0900-1700 and 2000-0001 |
| Winter | 1000-1600 and 1800-2200 |

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requests his Department has received from each of the principal bidders under the Defence Training Rationalisation Programme Package 2 for compensation for nugatory activity; and how much has been requested in *(a)* each case and *(b)* total. [174641]

**Derek Twigg:** To date no compensation requests for nugatory activity have been received from principal bidders involved in the DTR Package 2 competition.

### Charities: Fees and Charges

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide a break down of the costs charged to the Army Benevolent Fund for the use of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on 22, 23 and 24 September 2006 for the Music on Fire event. [163147]

**Derek Twigg:** Each application for the use of Ministry of Defence land for fund raising or other purposes is considered on its individual merits and an appropriate system of charges is applied. A charge of £7,041.01 was raised against the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) for the use of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, for the Music on Fire Event held in 2006. This total contained VAT of £1,049, commercial insurance of £2,500 and a Defence Estates licence fee of £100. I am withholding a more detailed breakdown of costs as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. However, the charges reflect an abated figure of the full amount permissible in accordance with Treasury Government accounting rules.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171437]

**Derek Twigg:** MOD expenditure on Christmas cards has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 348 |
| 2003 | 1,743 |
| 2004 | 1,664 |
| 2005 | 3,200 |
| 2006 | 1,000 |

These figures include printing, purchase and postage, but exclude a small amount spent by Defence attachés (for permitted representational purposes) which is not identifiable without disproportionate cost. The sending of Christmas cards at public expense is governed by the principles of Managing Public Money, regulated by departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, and must be in pursuit of specific Defence objectives.

Staff Christmas parties and building decorations are paid for from non-public funds or staff subscription. The exception is the contracted-out facilities management services for the Main Building and Old War Office Building in Whitehall, which include an annual £5,000 provision for Christmas decorations in reception areas.

### Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174404]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence policy on recycling is fully aligned with the overall objective of Government policy on waste to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. Our sustainable approach to waste management involves reduction, re-use and recycling.

The Department's policy is that non-hazardous waste products—especially those from offices—should be recycled. This includes, for example, paper, glass, aluminium cans, fluorescent tubes, printer cartridges, and toners. Where suitable recycling infrastructure exists, waste metals, oils, building rubble and similar waste streams should also be consigned to recycling.

MOD policy is that all procurement decisions should take into account the maximum potential for recycling of procured items, and the maximum use of products based on recycled materials. Use of recycled materials should be considered if they are fit for purpose, meet technical specification requirements and cost the same or less than new products.

More information on MODs policy on waste management can be found in Joint Service Publication (JSP) 418, the MOD Sustainable Development and Environment Manual, a copy of which can be found in the Library of the House. In addition, MOD has published a Sustainable Waste Management Strategy, which can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/HealthandSafety/DSC/DsandcEnvironmentSustainableDevelopmentDocumentLibrary.htm

### Departmental Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171316]

**Des Browne:** Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

## Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws; [168086]

(2) on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before their transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168252]

(3) how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168272]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168813]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168827]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169217]

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 requiring investigation there have been in the last five years in his Department; what the nature of such breaches were; and what the results of the investigations were in each case. [169260]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [169897]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

## Departmental Marketing

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which personnel are responsible for his Department's public relations. [173962]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence Directorate of Public Relations comprises 69 personnel, working across internal and external communication channels. The personnel breakdown as follows:

| | *Personnel* |
|---|---|
| Royal Navy PR | [1]15 |
| British Army PR | 10 |
| Royal Air Force PR | 8 |
| Defence and Schools PR | 14 |
| Multimedia and Internal Communications (Bureau) | 21 |

[1] Including photographers

Accurate information on personnel levels in Defence agencies, top level budget areas, trading funds, joint headquarters, single service commands and military units is not held centrally, and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Postal Services

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many items of post sent by his Department were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997; [171287]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171417]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 59W, on Departmental Public Participation, if he will place in the Library the findings of the opinion polls conducted by his Department. [174553]

**Derek Twigg:** The results of the top level reputation tracking by Ipsos/MORI are already available in the Library of the House. Results from the other opinion polls listed in my previous answer will be placed there as soon as possible.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172506]

**Derek Twigg:** Data for the amount of waste generated and recycled in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) over the past five years are outlined in the following table. This is based on partial data, since not all parts of the MOD are yet able to report the amount of waste generated. The information for 2005-06 and the figures for the amount of waste produced and the percentage recycled in 2004-05 were included in the sixth annual Sustainable Development in Government report published by the Sustainable Development Commission. A copy of that report can be found at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=514

| | *Amount of waste produced (Tonnes)*[1] | *Amount of waste recycled (Tonnes)* | *Percentage recycled* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 69,392 | 26,696 | 38.5 |
| 2004-05 | 50,404 | 11,391 | 22.6 |
| 2003-04 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— |
| 2002-03 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— |
| 2001-02 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— |

[1] Waste arisings data are given as the amount produced (weight) in metric tonnes and not in volume (m3).

[2] Not known.

The collection of data on the amount of waste produced and the amount of waste streams consigned to recycling continues to improve. The Department is working towards full waste data coverage in line with departmental policy set out in the MOD Sustainable Waste Management Strategy.

Data for 2006-07 will be reported by the Sustainable Development Commission early in 2008.

### Firing Ranges: National Parks

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the licence of each training area which requires a licence from a national park authority expires; [174470]

(2) how many training areas require licences from a national park authority before military training can be conducted. [174492]

**Derek Twigg:** One of the parcels of land used for military training in the Peak District National Park requires a licence as it is owned by and licensed from the Park Authority rather than a private landowner. Military training in National Parks is usually authorised by a planning consent.

The licence from the Peak District National Park expires on 17 April 2085. The lease on a parcel of land owned by the Peak District National Park Authority expires on the same date.

### Foreign and Commonwealth Nationality Report

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the monthly Defence Analytical Services Foreign and Commonwealth Nationality Report issued since April 1997. [174480]

**Derek Twigg:** Copies of the Defence Analytical Service Agency Nationality of British Army Personnel report has only been published in this format on a monthly basis since April 2005. Copies of these documents will need to be collated. I will place copies of the documents in the Library of the House when the work has been completed.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170477]

**Derek Twigg:** Recruitment to the civil service is carried out in accordance with the civil service nationality rules, which are available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/nationality.

There is no record of any illegal immigrants being discovered working for the MOD during the last 12 months.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government have spent on its own legal *(a)* advice and *(b)* representation on the inquest into the service personnel killed in the Hercules crash in Iraq; what future costs have been projected; and if he will make a statement. [175284]

**Des Browne:** The total costs that have been charged to MOD for external legal advice and representation in respect of the inquest into fatalities arising from the Hercules crash in Iraq on 30 January 2005 is £25,414.94. This covers bills up to the end of October. No estimate can be provided for the future costs, as it is not possible to predict with any certainty what further work will be required.

The MOD's own in-house legal advisers have also provided assistance in matters relating to preparation for the Hercules inquest. However, this work will have been done as part of their routine duties and cannot separately be costed.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many chest seals were issued to personnel in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2003. [164546]

**Derek Twigg:** Chest seals are supplied in Team Medic Packs, which are issued from a central pool for both theatres. These are issued to personnel who have been trained to fulfil an extended first aid role within the unit only. The number of packs issued to a unit will depend on the operational context at any given time. There have been no shortages in fulfilling operational demands for chest seals.

It is possible to provide data on the numbers issued from 2006 only when new information management structures were introduced in theatre. Quantities of chest seals issued to the supply sections of the respective theatres are as follows:

| | *Operation Telic* | *Operation Herrick* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 67 | 294 |
| 2007 | 1,867 | 2,520 |

The increase in numbers does not correlate with usage and does not reflect a rise in the number of chest wounds within operational theatres as un-used chest seals can be reissued to incoming units and replacement is required when the packaging, is damaged. Additionally, the introduction of the Team Medic, a combat soldier who has been identified, trained and equipped to take charge of the treatment and evacuation of casualties, has also contributed to the increase in numbers.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which out-of-service dates for *(a)* armoured vehicles, *(b)* aircraft, *(c)* helicopters and *(d)* weapons systems will change as a result of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [171900]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We keep the out-of-service dates of military equipment under review to reflect the impact of operations as well as other factors.

### Prisoners of War: Compensation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 312-3W, on prisoners of war: compensation, how many claims under the scheme for compensation for British civilian prisoners of the Japanese came forward after the Elias case; and how many of these have been rejected. [174201]

**Derek Twigg:** As at 10 December, the position with claims for compensation for injury to feelings resulting from having been discriminated against on the grounds of national origin by having had an application under the ex-gratia payment scheme for former Far East prisoners of war and civilian internees rejected under criteria based on place of birth (the "birthlink") was as follows:

Claims received: 299

Offers of payment made: 208

Claims rejected: 58

Claims under consideration: 33

Reasons for rejections were: that the original claim was made by a surviving spouse; that the claimant had not been a British subject at the time of internment or that they had not been interned; that the claim had not been rejected under the birthlink; and that the claimant had not been discriminated against on the grounds of national origin.

### Royal Military Academy: Army Benevolent Fund

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the breakdown was of costs charged to the Army Benevolent Fund for the use of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on 22, 23 and 24 September 2006 for the Music on Fire event. [170849]

**Derek Twigg:** Each application for the use of Ministry of Defence land for fund raising or other purposes is considered on its individual merits and an appropriate system of charges is applied. A charge of £7,041.01 was raised against the Army Benevolent Fund for the use of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for the Music on Fire event held in 2006. This total contained VAT of £1,049, commercial insurance of £2,500 and a Defence Estates licence fee of £100.

I am withholding a more detailed breakdown of costs as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. However, the charges reflect an abated figure of the full amount permissible in accordance with Treasury Government Accounting Rules.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Aviation

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since its establishment; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172232]

(2) how many miles he and Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172571]

**Mr. Thomas:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code. All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

### Biofuels: South West Region

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much energy is produced from miscanthus grass crops in the South West; and how much miscanthus produce is in storage *(a)* in energy producing facilities, *(b)* in agricultural settings and *(c)* underground. [165182]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on the energy produced from miscanthus or where the harvested crop is stored is not collected.

On the basis of average yields, the following table estimates the potential yields in tonnes that could be produced in the south-west:

| | | *Potential yields (in tonnes) in* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Planting year* | *Hectares (ha) claimed under ECS* | *Second year (based on 4-10t/(ha)* | *Third year (10-13t/ha)* | *Subsequent years (12-16t/ha)* |
| 2005 | 154 | 620-1,540 | 1,540-2,000 | 1,850-2,460 |
| 2006 | 35 | 140-250 | 350-450 | 420-560 |
| 2007 | 677 | 2,710-6,770 | 6,770-8,800 | 8,120-10,830 |

*Notes:*

1. The crop is harvested annually after the second year for 15 to 20 years.

2. A further 158 ha were planted under objective 1 from 2000-2007 but an annual breakdown is not available.

3. Miscanthus has a new calorific value, on a dry matter basis, of 17 mega joules/kilogramme. This means that the energy value of 1 tonne of dry miscanthus is equivalent to 0.4 tonnes of coal.

### Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation: Nottinghamshire

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what land and buildings the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation owns in *(a)* Bassetlaw and *(b)* Nottinghamshire. [174658]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation is a registered charity wholly independent of any Government Department. Information on its current ownership of land and buildings would best be obtained from the organisation itself.

### Defence Export Services Organisation

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what costs have been incurred by the transfer of the Defence Export Services Organisation to UK Trade and Investment of its responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [175371]

**Mr. Thomas:** The cost of machinery of Government changes will be met by relevant Departments within existing departmental budgets.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecasted total value is of each contract. [163811]

**Mr. Thomas:** Central records indicate that the total value of contracts with external consultants for the current financial year is £8.7 million.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167378]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department does not keep statistics on these response times therefore a response could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letters of 25 May, 25 July and 4 September from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare regarding his constituent Mr. Ivor Chivers and his company Eco Solutions. [173936]

**Mr. Thomas:** There have been responses to two of the hon. Member's letters, a third response will be issued shortly. I have asked for all responses to be faxed to the hon. Member's parliamentary office.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168267]

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what records are kept by his Department of attempted hacking or suspected cyber attacks or other malicious computer security breaches committed against his Department's computer systems. [174431]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006. [162450]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the East Midlands my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 596W.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Welsh speakers his Department employs. [162891]

**Mr. Thomas:** The information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what organisations within his responsibilities were discovered to have security staff who were illegal immigrants by the recent review of licences granted by the Security Industry Authority; and if he will make a statement. [165153]

**Mr. Thomas:** To date BERR has not been advised by the SIA of any security staff who are employed by the Department's security contractor who have been or who are illegal immigrants.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164937]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Code of Conduct for Special Advisers states that

> "In order to enable special Advisers to work effectively, departments may allocate permanent civil servants to provide support of a non-political nature".

There are three full-time equivalent staff who are directly employed to support BERR's departmental special advisers. All three provide administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. Information on the cost of these staff cannot be provided. The numbers are so few that to reveal the cost could identify an individual's salary, which is confidential between the individual and the employer.

Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 departmental annual report and accounts.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in his Department and its predecessors were paid over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167187]

**Mr. Thomas:** The number of staff earning £100,000 or more for BERR and predecessor Departments since 2005 is provided as follows. Information before 2005 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| *Financial year* | *Number of people* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 32 |
| 2006-07 | 44 |

Salaries of senior staff are reported in the Department's annual resource accounts, copies of which are accessible via the BERR public website.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170241]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department does not update its branding rules annually. Following the creation of BERR in June 2007, we produced guidelines on using the new logo. A fully revised version of the branding rules is currently being produced. The estimated one-off cost of producing these guidelines is £24,000. My Department will place a copy of this document in the Library when it is available, expected to be around the end of January 2008. I am unable to identify how much staff time is spent on complying with the corporate guidelines without incurring disproportionate costs.

Following the establishment of BERR, Companies House has used staff resources of approximately £32,000 on co-branding compliance.

Insolvency Service has branding guidelines which were produced internally at a one-off cost in staff time of £2,500. I am unable to identify how much staff time is spent on complying with the corporate guidelines without incurring disproportionate costs.

UK Trade and Investment's costs in maintaining its brand guidelines are £850.00 per month for hosting on the UKTI website. They estimate that one third of one FTE of their communications' staff time is spent on managing brand guidelines.

### Departmental Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172511]

(2) how much and what proportion of its waste his Department and its predecessor recycled in each of the last five years. [174428]

**Mr. Thomas:** The following table details the total waste arisings and recovered and recycled weights, where available for the past five years.

The remaining volume of waste that is not recovered or recycled is accounted for by the fly and bottom ash as a result of incineration. This is then often used in the road construction process.

| | *Total waste arisings* | *Recovered (kg)* | *Recycled* | *Percentage Recovered* | *Recycled* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 581,630.00 | 463,630.00 | | 79.7 (recovered and recycled combined) | |
| 2003-04 | | | Data unavailable | | |
| 2004-05 | 814,323.00 | 771,236.00 | 434,108.00 | 94.70 | 53.30 |
| 2005-06 | 622,841.00 | 498,273.00 | 349,707.00 | 80.00 | 56.10 |
| 2006-07 | 530,390.00 | 424,312.00 | 281,530.00 | 80.00 | 53.00 |

To further improve recycling across the **BERR** estate, extended recycling facilities have been rolled out, which captures cans, plastics, paper, card, glass and batteries. Additionally the Department will be trialling the removal of desk bins to encourage staff to segregate waste for recycling.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174400]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department has an environmental policy and operates an environmental management system which incorporates its procedures for dealing with waste minimisation and waste disposal. The Department practices the waste hierarchy of prevention, minimisation, re-use, recycling, energy recovery, disposal to landfill.

### Departmental Reorganisation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of *(a)* designing and *(b)* implementing the usage of the Department's interim logo in use immediately after 27 June was. [173181]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave to PQ 157389, answered on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 491W, in which I said that costs to date associated with the use of the name of the new Department were approximately £77,000. These included the costs of design, items such as new signage and changes to the website and other electronic media.

The costs specifically relating to the design of the interim logo (including creating and providing formats for print and web usage) were £11,132.46 excluding VAT.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of *(a)* designing and *(b)* implementing the usage of the Department's existing logo was. [173182]

**Mr. Thomas:** The cost of designing the current version of the Department's logo was £6,125 excluding VAT.

As at 21 November 2007, total design and branding costs incurred in setting up **BERR** were £218,063. These included stationery, IT changes including revised e-mail addresses, new signage, web based changes, new logo and print costs, including the re-launch of **BERR** on 1 November 2007, and the anticipated cost of branding guidelines, which are expected to be completed in January 2008.

### Departmental Stationery

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on headed paper in each of the last five years; and what the cost per sheet was in each such year. [173163]

**Mr. Thomas:** Central records indicate that spend on headed paper in each of the last five calendar years is as follows (costs include some of the Department's agencies and delivery partners and include news release paper):

| | *Total £ (excluding VAT)* | *Cost per sheet (pence)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 6,702 | 9 |
| 2006 | 6,633 | 6 |
| 2005 | 7,187 | 9 |
| 2004 | 29,043 | 1 |
| 2003 | 26,373 | 4 |

### Domestic Accidents

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many serious injuries there were in the home in the following age groups *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 24, *(c)* 25 to 65 and *(d)* over 65 in each of the last five years. [173553]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department stopped collecting this information in 2002. However, information prior to 2002 can be obtained from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

### Electricity Generation: Wastes

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the volume of emissions generated by the incineration of waste for the purpose of electricity generation compared to the burning of *(a)* coal, *(b)* gas and *(c)* oil for the same purpose; and if he will make a statement. [174568]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: The main emissions associated with electricity generation, together with the quantity of electricity generated by fuel in 2005 are shown in the table as follows.

| | *Emissions (thousand tonnes)* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Bio-carbon*[1] | *Carbon* | *Carbon monoxide* | *Nitrogen Oxide* | *Sulphur Dioxide* | *Electricity generated (GWh)* |
| Coal | 0 | 31,124 | 53 | 315 | 371 | 134,848 |
| Oil | 0 | 589 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 5,135 |
| Gas | 0 | 14,937 | 9 | 39 | 0 | 152,710 |
| Waste[2] | 2,021 | 322 | 6 | 8 | 3 | [3]9,615 |

[1] Carbon emissions derived from biomass, these are excluded from emissions inventories as they are part of the carbon cycle

[2] Waste oils, municipal solid waste, sewage gas, landfill gas, straw and poultry litter.

[3] An exact breakdown is not available, this figure includes non-biodegradable wastes, landfill gas, sewage sludge digestion, municipal solid waste combustion, co-firing with fossil fuels, farm waste digestion, poultry litter combustion, meat and bone combustion, straw and energy crops. However it excludes waste products from chemical processes.

*Source:*

National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2007

### Foreign Workers: North East Region

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect expenditure has been incurred by One in (i) marketing the North East and (ii) offering a programme of assistance to move to the North East to workers from eastern Europe. [172022]

**Mr. Timms:** One NorthEast has invested £16.8 million in marketing the region in the UK and internationally over the last three years (year on year split shown in the following table). This spend includes the "Passionate People, Passionate Places" regional image campaign, national TV advertising and promoting the region to inward investors in key markets including the USA, India and China. It also covers all national and international tourism marketing which includes campaigns in Australia, Norway, Holland and New Zealand.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 5,616,337.65 |
| 2006-07 | 7,239,115.57 |
| 2007-08 | 4,017,830.02 |
| Total | 16,873,283.24 |

One NorthEast has never had a programme targeted at encouraging workers to move to the north-east from eastern Europe.

### Fossil Fuelled Power Stations: Planning Permission

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice is provided to local authorities considering applications for new, unabated fossil fuel power plants. [175425]

**Malcolm Wicks:** No specific advice has been issued to local authorities. However the Department has issued general guidance on how the section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 consenting regime works.

### Fossil Fuels: Imports

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much he estimates will be spent on imports of *(a)* oil and *(b)* gas in (i) 2008, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2015, (iv) 2020 and (v) 2030 at 2007 prices. [173880]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Some of the gas and most of the oil produced on the UK Continental Shelf is exported rather than being consumed domestically, so the gross volume of imports is not equivalent to total UK consumption minus total UK production. The Department does not estimate the gross volume of imports of oil or gas expected in future years.

Projections of future net imports can be derived by subtracting projected UK Continental Shelf production from projected UK demand, although projections of the latter have been made for only the years 2010, 2015 and 2020. These are available in Annex J to the paper on Updated Energy and Carbon Emissions Projections published alongside the May 2007 Energy White Paper at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/page39534.html.

Based on the published projections, net imports of oil in 2010 would be 176 million barrels; in 2015, 301 million barrels; and in 2020, 392 million barrels. The average price for oil so far in 2007 is $72/barrel, about £36/barrel. If net imports in future years were bought at that price, the cost would therefore be about £6.4 billion in 2010; £10.9 billion in 2015; and £14.1 billion in 2020.

For gas, net imports in 2010 would be about 36 billion cubic metres (bcm); in 2015, 68 bcm; and in 2020, 79 bcm. The average wholesale spot price for gas so far in 2007 is 30p/therm, equivalent to about £109 million/bcm. Thus, if imports in future years were bought at 2007 prices, the cost would be about £3.9 billion in 2010; £7.4 billion in 2015; and £8.6 billion in 2020.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170501]

**Mr. Thomas:** No illegal immigrants have been discovered working for the Department or its agencies in the past year.

### Meat: Imports

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much meat was imported from Brazil in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [174443]

**Mr. Thomas:** The figures in the following table are taken from HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics.

*UK imports of meat and meat preparations from Brazil*

| | *£ million* | *thousand tonnes* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 176 | 132 |
| 2003 | 177 | 137 |
| 2004 | 198 | 144 |
| 2005 | 210 | 148 |
| 2006 | 192 | 114 |

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to reply to the letter of 29 October 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton regarding Mr. J Shah. [173126]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department has no record of receiving my hon. Friend's letter. We have now received a copy of his letter. It appears that it is a matter for the Home Office and has been transferred to them for a response.

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ensure that a reply is sent to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter to the chief executive of Ofgem of 30 October; and what the reasons are for the time taken to send a reply. [174582]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* My hon. Friend will understand that, as an independent regulator, Ofgem is responsible for its operational activities, including dealing with correspondence. However, I understand that, in this case, Ofgem will respond very soon to my hon. Friend.

### Nanotechnology: Finance

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding the Technology Strategy Board plans to allocate to nanotechnology in each of the next five years. [167528]

**Ian Pearson:** The Technology Strategy Board, established as an executive NDPB in July 2007, has inherited a number of nanotechnology-focused activities from the former DTI, including collaborative R and D projects, nanotechnology centres, and knowledge transfer network.

It is currently in the process of developing its strategic and delivery plans for the next three years starting April 2008, and the role of nanotechnology will be fully considered in developing these plans. During this period, the Technology Strategy Board will overall coordinate public sector investment worth more than £1 billion (including contributions from the English RDAs and the Research Councils), to provide business with a coherent package of technology and innovation support, to help companies turn good ideas into new products and services.

### National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last held discussions with the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators. [173267]

**Mr. Timms:** Departmental Ministers have not met the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators in recent years.

### Natural Gas: Regulation

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to ensure that all suppliers of gas are regulated by the energy supply ombudsman. [175109]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* Gas and electricity supply is regulated by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem). The Energy Supply Ombudsman is not a regulator. It is an independent body that was established by the six major gas and electricity suppliers following an investigation by Ofgem into suppliers' billing practices. It investigates billing and transfer complaints made by domestic customers who have been unable to resolve the matter with their supplier. Under the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007, redress arrangements will be put on a statutory basis, and will apply to all suppliers. The Government recently consulted on the scope of these new arrangements, including proposals to provide small businesses with access to the schemes. The individual schemes brought forward by industry will be subject to approval by the relevant regulator.

### Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Finance

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority was in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* each year of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period. [173159]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority began operation on 1 April 2005. Its actual gross expenditure since then and its budget for 2007-08 and for each year of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period is as follows:

| | | | *Funded by:* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Total expenditure (£000)* | *Grant in aid (£000)* | *Commercial income (£000)* |
| 2005-06 | Actual expenditure | 2,420 | 1,168 | 1,252 |
| 2006-07 | Actual expenditure | 2,679 | 1,452 | 1,227 |

| | | *Forecast budget* | *Grant in aid* | *Forecast commercial income* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | Budget | 2,806 | 1,367 | 1,439 |
| 2008-09 | CSR 2007 | 2,855 | 1,534 | 1,321 |
| 2009-10 | CSR 2007 | 2,818 | 1,610 | 1,208 |
| 2010-11 | CSR 2007 | 2,785 | 1,705 | 1,080 |

## Nuclear Power

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what work is being undertaken by the Generation IV International Forum in examining new forms of nuclear reactor technology; and what role the UK is playing in the forum. [173862]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Generation IV International Forum (GIF) aims to develop, by research collaboration, the most promising advanced nuclear energy systems for international deployment from around 2030. More information is available at www.gen-4.org.

The UK stood down as an active member of the Forum in summer 2006. The decision to stand down reflected the need to match financial and other resources with the Department's strategic priorities. While valuable in some respects, further involvement in the Forum was not considered to be as relevant to the Department's mission as other competing priorities.

## Post Office: Christmas

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has sought assurances from the Post Office that the Horizon payments system will cope with the number of transactions expected to take place on 24 December 2007. [174868]

**Mr. McFadden:** I understand that Post Office Ltd. is confident that its Horizon system has the capacity to cope with the number of transactions expected to take place on 24 December. State pensions for 1.4 million Post Office card account holders will be payable from 21 December giving those pensioners the choice of three days on which to draw their pensions and spreading the transaction volumes for sub post offices and the Horizon system. Post Office Ltd. will monitor performance of their systems closely in the days preceding the holiday period and has comprehensive contingency plans in place.

## Post Office: Wales

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many submissions the Post Office has received in its consultation on the Cardiff and Glamorgan Valleys Area Plan. [173871]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

## Post Offices: Access

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many functioning sub post offices are required to meet the Government's access criteria as outlined in the Network Change Programme; [172488]

(2) if an update has been undertaken of the analysis within the 2000 Performance and Innovation Unit Counter-revolution report on the minimum number of sub post offices required to meet certain distance-based access criteria, based on present post office numbers and the Government's new access criteria as outlined in the Network Change Programme. [172489]

**Mr. McFadden:** *[holding answer 12 December 2007]:* Post Office Ltd currently estimates that the minimum size of network necessary to meet the access criteria is around 7,500 offices but it is Government policy to maintain a sustainable network of around 11,500 post offices. The £1.7 billion funding package announced on 17 May supports the network at that level to 2011.

The access criteria set a minimum floor for the network size and Post Office Ltd are being asked to undertake, in consultation with Postwatch, an updated study and analysis of the minimum number of post offices required to meet the access criteria.

## Post Offices: Christmas

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assurances he has sought from the Post Office that all pensioners will be able to receive their pensions from post offices before Christmas 2007; [175023]

(2) what contingency plans there are should pension and benefit claimants be unable to access their payments from post offices before Christmas. [175024]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* I understand that Post Office Ltd. is confident that its Horizon system has the capacity to cope with the number of transactions expected to take place on 24 December. State pensions for 1.4 million Post Office card account holders will be payable from 21 December giving those pensioners the choice of three days on which to draw their pensions and spreading the transaction volumes for sub post offices and the Horizon system. Post Office Ltd. will monitor performance of their systems closely in the days preceding the holiday period and has comprehensive contingency plans in place.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd. on the factors to be taken into account in setting the timetable for the Post Office Closure Consultation Programme; and if he will make a statement. [171990]

**Mr. McFadden:** In preparing the Government's response to the national public consultation on the post office network, discussions were held with Post Office Ltd. about the overall timetable for the network change programme. It was the company's view that implementation of the changes was deliverable by the end of 2008 and the Government response confirmed that the aim was to complete the programme within that period. In July, Post Office Ltd. published an indicative timetable for local consultations on their area plan proposals to complete the programme by the end of 2008. In finalising their timetable for local consultations for post office closures and new outreach services, Post Office Ltd. were asked to take into account Cabinet Office guidelines regarding election periods. These clearly state that consultations should not be launched, and decisions relating to them announced, in a local election period. Successive administrations of both parties have observed these arrangements for many years. The aim remains to complete the network change programme by the end of 2008.

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Government *(a)* decided to defer the Post Office network change programme in England and Wales and *(b)* informed and instructed Post Office Limited to impose a freeze on running any public consultations prior to the May 2008 municipal and local authority elections in England and Wales. [173482]

**Mr. McFadden:** Post Office Ltd was advised in early November of the need to apply the principles set out in the Cabinet Office guidelines relating to public consultations in the period preceding local elections.

### Post Offices: Kent

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many customers use the Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge Post Office on average each day; [174916]

(2) how many customers use the South End, Edenbridge, Post Office on average each day; [174917]

(3) how many customers use the Hectorage Road, Tonbridge, Post Office on average each day; [174918]

(4) how many post offices there are within a mile of *(a)* the Hectorage Road, Tonbridge, Post Office, *(b)* the Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Post Office and *(c)* the South End, Edenbridge, Post Office. [174920]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices were open in Peterborough constituency in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [174467]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Postal Services: Rural Areas

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an assessment of the effect on postal delivery times in rural areas of the EU regulations which require 7.5 tonne tachograph vehicles to travel at or below 56 mph; and if he will bring forward proposals to exempt postal delivery vehicles from those regulations. [173859]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: Royal Mail has responsibility for running the day-to-day operations of the business and has to comply with relevant legislation.

The EU Directive 92/6/EEC concerning all vehicles weighing more than 7.5 tonnes is intended to promote road safety, and to improve working conditions for drivers.

I understand that compliance with this directive has had an impact on Royal Mail's network because vehicles arrive at destinations later.

The Department for Transport has responsibility for the implementation of this directive and it is for them to consider whether there should be exemptions from the regulations.

### Postwatch: Finance

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to the public purse was of Post Watch in the latest year for which figures are available. [174919]

**Mr. McFadden:** Details of Postwatch's expenditure for the latest year can be found in its annual report for 2006-07 which can be accessed through the Postwatch website at:

http://www.postwatch.co.uk/images/stories/pdfs/PostwatchAR2006-07.pdf

### Power Stations: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether plans exist for minimum efficiency standards for greenhouse gas emissions to be applied to applications for new power plants. [175418]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government have issued guidance for all applicants for non renewable fossil fuelled stations to demonstrate they have considered combined heat and power. In addition the Environment Agency consider the efficient use of fuel when considering any large combustion plant application made under the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control regime.

### Radioactive Materials: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to *(a)* store and *(b)* dispose of (i) spent nuclear fuel and (ii) other nuclear waste in each 10 year period up to 2077; what sites have been identified for (A) storage and (B) disposal in each case; and if he will make a statement. [174232]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Spent nuclear fuel is currently stored on the site where it arises or is transported to Sellafield for long-term storage or reprocessing. Spent fuel is not classified as a waste.

High Level Waste (HLW) created by reprocessing spent fuel is routinely put into a passively safe form through a process known as vitrification and then safely and securely stored in a custom built facility at Sellafield.

Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) is generally held in safe and secure storage on nuclear sites where it arises, pending availability of a disposal facility for higher activity waste.

Low Level Waste (LLW) is mostly disposed of at the national Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg in Cumbria, which is expected to operate until 2050. A further near surface LLW disposal facility is currently planned for the Dounreay site in Scotland. Some LLW, not suitable for near-surface disposal, is held in storage pending the availability of a disposal facility for higher activity waste.

In July 2006 the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) reported to Government its recommendations for the long term management of higher activity radioactive waste. In October 2006 Government accepted the primary recommendations of geological disposal coupled with robust, safe and secure interim storage until such time as a geological disposal facility is available. Government also confirmed they wished to explore a site selection approach for this facility based on the concept of voluntarism, as recommended by CoRWM. Government recently held a public consultation on the framework for implementing geological disposal and will report their findings shortly, with a White Paper anticipated in the new year to set out the way forward for the implementation process designed to deliver a geological disposal facility and ensure interim storage remains safe and secure in the meantime.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the amount of *(a)* spent nuclear fuel and *(b)* other nuclear waste to be disposed of in the UK in each 10 year period to 2077; and if he will make a statement. [174235]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The last published 'snapshot' of the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory, that includes both existing and expected legacy waste volumes, was for a stock date of 1 April 2004. The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) drew on this when it compiled its own inventory estimates. The packaged volumes of High Level Waste (HLW), Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) and Low Level Waste (LLW) as reported by CoRWM are as follows:

| *Material* | *Packaged volume (m3)* |
|---|---:|
| HLW | 1,290 |
| ILW | 353,000 |
| LLW[1] | 37,200 |

[1] This refers to long lived LLW not suitable for near surface disposal.

In addition most LLW is routinely disposed of as it arises to the near surface facility near Drigg in West Cumbria.

From the 2004 UK Radioactive Waste Inventory, given a number of assumptions, if waste is packaged the figures in cubic metres are as follows:

| | *HLW* | *ILW* | *LLW* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|
| In stock | 1,222 | 105,570 | 30,426 |
| Arisings 2004-09 | 440 | 27,553 | 172,881 |
| Arisings 2010-19 | 92 | 29,703 | 260,168 |
| Arisings 2020-29 | 0 | 18,218 | 162,768 |
| Arisings 2030-39 | 0 | 12,035 | 132,534 |
| Arisings 2040-59 | 0 | 35,076 | 228,123 |
| Arisings 2060-99 | 0 | 45,445 | 1,232,787 |

These figures do not include spent fuel arisings as they are not currently declared as waste intended for disposal.

### Small Businesses: Young People

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government are taking to promote small business start-up schemes among young people. [168326]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government's aim is to get a generation of young people to start thinking about the benefits of running their own business, and to recognise the positive impact that enterprising attitudes can have in every area of their lives.

According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor UK Report 2006, 10.1 per cent. of 18 to 24-year-olds said they expected to start a business in the next three years, the highest level of any age group reported.

We want to empower young people and change the attitudes of those who influence them, such as parents, teachers and employers. And we want to raise young people's awareness of the practical help that already exists—such as training programmes, mentoring, information and guidance, and the various support networks around the country.

We are doing this by:

Funding Enterprise Insight's 'Make Your Mark: Change Lives' campaign—which promotes enterprise to young people aged 14 to 30;

Supporting the UK's annual Enterprise Week;

Promoting enterprise education within schools;

Supporting the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship to promote business start-up as a viable alternative to working for somebody else.

In Wales, this is being done by:

Delivering the Youth Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Strategy (YES) launched in 2004;

Offering support through a range of programmes including Business Eye, a comprehensive and popular source of impartial information and general support for business.

There were around 34,000 new start-ups by young people (under 25) in England and Wales in 2006. This is 8 per cent. of all start-ups, up from 7 per cent. in 2003.

*Source:*

ONS Labour Force Survey and Barclays Bank

### Social Security Benefits: ICT

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the performance and reliability of the Horizon payments system in delivering benefits. [174869]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Telent

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the takeover of Telent by the Pensions Corporation. [167594]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The proposed transaction is a commercial matter for the enterprises concerned and their shareholders.

I understand that the union Unite has asked the Pensions Regulator to consider the issues associated with this takeover.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has produced on whether trade union employees not funded by a trade union political fund can utilise their time to engage in political campaigning. [174865]

**Mr. McFadden:** Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer has produced guidance on whether trade union employees not funded by a trade union political fund can utilise their time to engage in political campaigning.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has produced on whether employees taking leave from their employment to undertake their trade union activities can engage in political campaigning as part of those trade union duties. [174866]

**Mr. McFadden:** Neither the Department not the Certification Officer has produced specific guidance on whether employees taking leave from their employment to undertake their trade union activities can engage in political campaigning as part of those trade union duties. The Department has produced general guidance on the law relating to time off for trade union duties and activities in a publication entitled "Union membership: rights of members and non-members".

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to introduce proposals for new *(a)* legislation, *(b)* regulation and *(c)* guidance on the administration and conduct of trades union ballots. [175166]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has no current plans to introduce new legislation, regulation and guidance on the administration and conduct of trade union ballots.

### Trade Unions: Finance

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 467W, on trade unions: finance, if he will introduce regulations to provide that trades union members who opt out of a union's political fund must be charged a proportionately lower subscription rate. [174704]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department has no plans to introduce additional regulation regarding the level of subscriptions paid by trade union members.

### Trade Unions: Regional Development Agencies

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1141W, on trades unions: regional development agencies (RDAs), which RDAs have no trade union member on their board. [175039]

**Mr. Timms:** All of the eight RDAs for which BERR makes appointments (appointments to the LDA are the responsibility of the Mayor) have a trade union representative on their board.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1141W, on trade unions: regional development agencies (RDAs), what *(a)* his policy and *(b)* the policy of the assessment panels is on whether a trade union representative should be appointed to each RDA board. [175040]

**Mr. Timms:** It is Government policy that there is a trade union representative on the board of each of the eight RDAs for which BERR makes appointments (appointments to the LDA are the responsibility of the Mayor).

The appointments process for trade union representatives is then run in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice, in the same way as other appointments: the specification for the trade union appointment is subject to external consultation; the selection panel is responsible for sifting and interviewing candidates for each of the vacancies in the different sectors, putting forward all candidates that satisfy the selection criteria and are therefore appointable, ready for my consideration.

### UK Trade and Investment: Defence

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the new unit in UK Trade and Investment responsible for defence exports will be called. [173404]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* As outlined in the written statement of 11 December, *Official Report*, column 16WS, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, the new unit has provisionally been given the name UKTI Defence and Security Group.

### Unfair Practices: Sales

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive will apply to consumers purchasing goods or services from trade unions; [173713]

(2) what the timetable is for the full implementation of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive; and on what date the revised consumer protection rules will come into force. [173714]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* I propose to lay before Parliament in early January draft Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations, implementing the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. If approved in debate the regulations will come into force on 6 April 2008.

It is possible that the directive could apply to a trade union that has a trading arm providing goods and services to consumers within the meaning of the directive. In these circumstances a trade union's trading entity could be acting as a trader for the purposes of the directive.

### Union Modernisation Fund

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department commissioned any external assessment of applications for funding under the union modernisation fund programme. [173168]

**Mr. McFadden:** We have engaged an independent supervisory board to assess all applications against the union modernisation fund criteria. The bids were assessed to ensure that they fell within the scope of the fund; to ensure that they had been realistically costed, offered value for money; and had suitable project management arrangements in place for effective delivery of the project.

In addition BERR is working with Leeds University Business School to conduct a phased evaluation of the fund. Phase one evaluated the operational effectiveness of the first round of bidding. Phase two will evaluate the success of supported projects and the impact of monies via a series of case studies. An interim phase two evaluation report will be published shortly.

## TREASURY

### Assets: Capital Gains Tax

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of rebasing the cost of assets subject to capital gains tax to April 1998 values. [173677]

**Jane Kennedy:** The revenue cost of rebasing assets subject to capital gains tax to April 1998 values would be of the order of £700 million a year by comparison with the current (2007-08) regime. This is a broad estimate and takes into account the likely taxpayer response to the change.

### Central Heating: Yorkshire and Humber

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of households in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber were without central heating in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [174300]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

My Department does not collect information on central heating for each parliamentary constituency. From the most recently available data from the Survey of English Housing 9 per cent. of households reported they did not have central heating in Yorkshire and Humber in 2005-06, compared to 19 per cent. in 1995-96. The following table provides the trend within the region for the last 10 years.

*Yorkshire and Humber: households without central heating, 1995-96 to 2005-06*

| | *Percentage of households without central heating* |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 19 |
| 1996-97 | 19 |

*Yorkshire and Humber: households without central heating, 1995-96 to 2005-06*

| | Percentage of households without central heating |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 18 |
| 1998-99 | 18 |
| 1999-2000 | 18 |
| 2000-01 | 15 |
| 2001-02 | 13 |
| 2002-03 | 12 |
| 2003-04 | 11 |
| 2004-05 | 9 |
| 2005-06 | 9 |

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have access to a full copy of data held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs on tax credit claimants. [168054]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* No individuals at the Treasury have access to data on tax credits claimants.

HMRC provides its staff with controlled access to customer information to facilitate the delivery and maintenance of service for customers.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

The interim report was published yesterday and is available in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the computer software being used to store the Child Benefit database in HM Revenue and Customs in March 2007 was capable of encrypting data. [168707]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published yesterday and is available in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what vetting process is applied to officials in HM Revenue and Customs who have access to the full database of child benefit records. [173358]

**Jane Kennedy:** Access to all HMRC systems is assigned according to user-roles. HMRC seeks to minimise access levels to its systems, restricting access to only those staff who can demonstrate a current defined business need.

All HMRC staff are security cleared to an appropriate level in line with departmental security procedures.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published yesterday and is available in the Library of the House.

### Clear Line of Sight Project

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department is making on the Clear Line of Sight project; and if he will make a statement. [175208]

**Andy Burnham:** The Government announced in the "Governance of Britain" Green Paper (Cm7170) in July that it would simplify its reporting to Parliament by bringing together the processes for planning, parliamentary approval and reporting of public spending on to a more consistent basis, in line with the fiscal rules. The Government made clear that they would consult widely on the detailed changes needed to effect this major reform, which is designed to make the system of government finance easier to understand and operate and improve government's accountability to Parliament.

The process of preliminary research and analysis needed to deliver a successful outcome to the project is now well under way, and the Government very much welcome the involvement of representatives from Parliament, the National Audit Office and the Financial Reporting Advisory Board, as well as from across government.

### Customs Officers: Training

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on training and staff development of HM Revenue and Customs customs officers in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [174550]

**Jane Kennedy:** There is no separate group of staff identified as "customs officers". The external costs of training and staff development for the Customs and Excise department are shown below for 2001-02 to 2004-05; figures for 2000-01 are not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 7,490 |
| 2002-03 | 6,585 |
| 2003-04 | 5,718 |
| 2004-05 | 5,751 |

Following the merger with former Inland Revenue, producing HM Revenue and Customs (but excluding the Valuation Office Agency), the corresponding total training and staff development costs for 2005-06 and 2006-07 were:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 9,147 |
| 2006-07 | 8,984 |

### Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on international flights in each year since 1997. [174533]

**Angela Eagle:** Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Computers

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records are kept by his Department of attempted hacking or suspected cyber attacks or other malicious computer security breaches committed against his Department's computer systems. [174429]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury keeps operational logs of firewall and anti-virus activity. All suspected breaches or hacking attempts are investigated.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions compact discs containing unencrypted confidential data have been sent out by his Department in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [168210]

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many electronic databases within his Department contain *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information on members of the public. [169710]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

The interim report was published yesterday and is available in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are in place to ensure that information kept by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies is (i) accurate and up-to-date and (ii) kept securely. [169420]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC, including the Valuation Office Agency has in place a range of measures to ensure its information is both accurate and up to date and kept securely.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published yesterday and is available in the Library of the House.

### Drug Seizures

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many seizures of *(a)* methamphetamine, *(b)* cannabis, *(c)* cocaine and *(d)* heroin have been made by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 1997; and what the total quantity seized of each substance was. [166843]

**Angela Eagle:** The following table shows the number of seizures and quantities of heroin, cocaine and cannabis seized by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the years since 1997.

Methamphetamine was reclassified as a Class A drug on the 18 January 2007, prior to this HMRC did not collect seizure data on methamphetamine. No seizures of methamphetamine were made in the period 18 January 2007 to 31 March 2007.

When the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) became operational on 1 April 2006, primacy for the resources associated with the investigation of class A drugs cases transferred to SOCA. Details of services relating to this activity are included in SOCA's Annual Report (2005-06) available online at:

www.soca.gov.uk.

| *Financial year* | *Cannabis (KGs)* | *Cannabis (Number of seizures)* | *Cocaine (KGs)* | *Cocaine (Number of seizures)* | *Heroin (KGs)* | *Heroin (Number of seizures)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07[1] | 62,966 | 4,244 | 2,368 | 1,165 | 527 | 60 |
| 2005-06 | 41,611 | 3,234 | 5,798 | 1,176 | 1,507 | 61 |
| 2004-05 | 57,504 | 3,359 | 8,606 | 1,093 | 1,613 | 79 |
| 2003-04 | 57,617 | 3,470 | [2]20,727 | 1,169 | 1,626 | 87 |
| 2002-03 | 59,035 | 4,454 | 8,767 | 1,181 | 2,069 | 52 |
| 2001-02 | 67,061 | 4,170 | 6,075 | 1,655 | 1,489 | 83 |
| 2000-01 | 41,776 | n/a | 7,420 | n/a | 2,043 | n/a |
| 1999-2000 | 77,853 | n/a | 2,525 | n/a | 2,707 | n/a |
| 1998-99[3] | 62,028 | — | 3,540 | — | 594 | — |
| 1997-98 | 80,380 | — | 2,356 | — | 1,821 | — |

[1] When the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) became operational on 1 April cases transferred to SOCA.

[2] The large quantity of cocaine seized in this year is due to the culmination of several long running operations.

[3] For financial years 1997-98, 1998-99 the drugs statistics published gave the total number of seizures for cocaine, heroin, cannabis and synthetic drugs. The total amount of seizures made in 1997-98 were 7,796 and for 1998-99 7,738.

For financial year 1999-2000 the drugs statistics published in the Annual Report gave the total number of drugs seized in value (£ million). The weight of drugs seized during this financial year is reflected in the table. For financial year 2000-01 the drugs statistics published in the Annual Report gave the total number of drugs seized by weight only.

### Employment: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19, *(e)* 20, *(f)* 21, *(g)* 22, *(h)* 23 and *(i)* 24 year old (i) women and (ii) men were in employment but not receiving education or training in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [169823]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19, *(e)* 20, *(f)* 21, *(g)* 22, *(h)* 23 and *(i)* 24 year old (i) women and (ii) men were in employment but not receiving education or training in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. (169823)

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### Enterprise Management Incentives

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average market value was of share options exercised under the Enterprise Management Incentive scheme in each year since 2001-02. [162967]

**Angela Eagle:** The Enterprise Management Incentives scheme was introduced in Finance Act 2000, and offers generous tax-advantaged share options to help small, higher risk independent trading companies recruit and retain the high calibre people they need to grow and succeed. EMI is open to qualifying companies or groups with gross assets not exceeding £30 million.

The following table shows the average market value of shares acquired per employee exercising EMI share options during each of the years 2001-02 to 2005-06 together with the numbers of those employees. The figures in the above table include the average gain as well as average market value since it is only the gain which is relieved of income tax and NICS under EMI.

| *Tax year* | *Number of employees exercising EMI share options* | *Average market value of shares acquired (£)* | *Average amount paid for shares acquired (£)* | *Average gain on exercise (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 400 | 33,000 | 9,000 | 24,000 |
| 2002-03 | 1,300 | 41,000 | 7,000 | 34,000 |
| 2003-04 | 2,100 | 49,000 | 8,000 | 41,000 |
| 2004-05 | 4,600 | 49,000 | 8,000 | 41,000 |
| 2005-06 | 6,100 | 59,000 | 10,000 | 49,000 |

*Note:* Averages are per employee.

### Exports

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of goods and services exported overseas from *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [174147]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is as follows.

*Value of goods exported[1] from the UK, 1997 to 2006*

| | *Value of goods exported (£ million)* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Total UK exports* | *Exports from Scotland[2]* |
| 1997 | 171,779 | 15,395 |
| 1998 | 164,247 | 17,575 |
| 1999 | 166,318 | 17,615 |
| 2000 | 187,159 | 20,228 |
| 2001 | 189,376 | 16,686 |
| 2002 | 186,978 | 15,616 |
| 2003 | 188,382 | 13,200 |
| 2004 | 190,548 | 11,932 |
| 2005 | 211,756 | 12,661 |
| 2006 | 243,821 | 13,460 |

[1] Exports refer to both EU and non-EU destined goods

[2] Exports from Scotland based on Regional Trade Statistics methodology

*Note:*

Data on services are not available on a comparable basis. Figures for the UK are available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and data for Scottish service exports are available from the Scottish Executive.

*Source:*

HM Revenue and Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

### Freight: Roads

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the economic prospects for the UK road freight sector, with particular reference to the effects of *(a)* freight taxes, *(b)* excise duties and *(c)* fuel prices. [174137]

**Angela Eagle:** In taking taxation decisions as part of the Budget process the Government consider all relevant environmental, social and economic factors—including those relating to specific industry sectors—into consideration.

Further to this process, the Haulage Industry Task Group, consisting of Government officials and representatives from the road haulage industry and business sector, published a report in December 2006, designed to better understand the issues raised in 2005 Burns Inquiry into fuel prices, freight taxes and foreign competition. The report is published at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pre_budget_report/prebud_pbr06/other_docs/prebud_pbr06_odhaulage_cfm

### Gift Aid

**Mr. Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will change the gift aid rules under section 3.46.12 of the guidance to include grandparents of minors. [174503]

**Jane Kennedy:** Minors (those under the age of 18 who are not married) are the legal responsibility of their parents or legal guardians. Membership subscriptions paid on behalf of minors by their parents or legal guardians can be regarded as qualifying donations providing the usual Gift Aid conditions are met. There is no scope within the existing legislation to extend this treatment. The Government continue to look at ways of building on the success of the Gift Aid scheme and increasing donations to charity, and is currently considering responses to the recent consultation on Gift Aid to this end.

### Government Equalities Office

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), (1) if he will break down the Government Equalities Office new estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms; [174999]

(2) if he will break down the *(a)* Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, *(b)* Food Standards Agency and *(c)* Office of Rail Regulation (i) main estimate and (ii) winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (A) near cash and (B) non-cash terms; [175000]

(3) if he will break down the *(a)* Assets Recovery Agency, *(b)* Charity Commission and *(c)* Northern Ireland Court Service (i) main estimate and (ii) winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (A) near cash and (B) non-cash terms; [175001]

(4) if he will break down the *(a)* National Archives, *(b)* Crown Prosecution Service and *(c)* Serious Fraud Office (i) main estimate and (ii) winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (A) near cash and (B) non-cash terms; [175002]

(5) if he will break down the *(a)* HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor, *(b)* Office of Gas and Electricity and *(c)* Postal Services Commission (i) main estimate and (ii) winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (A) near cash and (B) non-cash terms; [175003]

(6) if he will break down the *(a)* Forestry Commission, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* National Savings and Investments (i) main estimate and (ii) winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (A) near cash and (B) non-cash terms; [175004]

(7) if he will break down the *(a)* Office for National Statistics, *(b)* National School of Government and *(c)* Privy Council Office (i) main estimate and (ii) winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (A) near cash and (B) non-cash terms. [175005]

**Andy Burnham:** The breakdown of voted resources in supply estimates is primarily a matter for the Departments concerned. I understand that the right hon. Gentleman has tabled the same question to all Departments directly in separate parliamentary questions.

### National Insurance: Data Protection

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how frequently discs are sent to pension providers containing information on national insurance rebates; how many are sent each year; and how many such discs have gone missing in transit over the last three years. [171494]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* HMRC may only disclose information which it holds in accordance with the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005. Most transfers of data take place under statutory gateways which specify circumstances in which HMRC may disclose such information. All disclosures must be compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim findings were published yesterday and available in the Library of the House.

### Pensioners

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of the population in *(a)* England and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency are over the age of 65; and if he will make a statement. [174293]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many and what percentage of the population in (a) England and (b) each parliamentary constituency are over the age of 65 years. (174293).

The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006. The estimated population in England aged 65 and over is 8,086,000. This is 16 per cent of the total estimated population in England in mid-2006.

ONS does not have population estimates for parliamentary constituencies for the whole of the UK. However mid-2006 estimates for parliamentary constituencies covering England and Wales and Scotland are due to be published early in 2008. Estimates for Northern Ireland are available on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency website at:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20_21_24&cms=demography_population%20statistics_Mid-year+population+estimates&release=

### Personation

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1203W, on personation, what risks his Department has identified of identity theft arising from tax-related correspondence between HM Revenue and Customs and members of the public; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce those risks. [173681]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement my right hon. Friend the Chancellor gave to the House on 17 December.

### Recycling

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174406]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury is committed to meeting the government's target to increase recycling figures on the office estate to 40 per cent. of waste arisings by 2010 and to 75 per cent. by 2020.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174419]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W.

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what security clearance is required before a member of staff is allowed access to personal information at HM Revenue and Customs. [168468]

**Jane Kennedy:** Access to any HMRC system is assigned according to user-roles. HMRC seeks to minimise access levels to its systems, restricting access to only those staff who can demonstrate a current defined business need.

All HMRC staff are security cleared to an appropriate level in line with departmental security procedures.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published yesterday and is available in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* organisations, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* individuals have (i) partial and (ii) total access to personal tax or benefit data held by HM Revenue and Customs; under what conditions such access is given; what legislation regulates such access; and if he will make a statement [169529]

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how data are shared between HM Revenue and Customs and the Student Loans Company; and what medium is used to transmit the data; [173555]

(2) what encryption is used when sending data *(a)* from HM Revenue and Customs to the Student Loans Company and *(b)* from the Student Loans Company to HM Revenue and Customs. [173556]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC may only disclose information which it holds in accordance with the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005. Most transfers of data take place under statutory gateways which specify circumstances in which HMRC may disclose such information. All disclosures must be compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published yesterday and is available in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what concerns about security at HM Revenue and Customs have been reported by the Departmental Security Officer of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs in the last two years. [169736]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Departmental Security Officer (DSO) of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) provides HMRC's Chairman with an Annual Report on Security Incidents. The remit of HM Treasury's Departmental Security Officer does not cover HMRC, although issues of common concern about shared premises are discussed regularly between the security officials of the two Departments.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs uses secure electronic networks to transfer data; and what criteria are used in deciding what methods of data transfer to use. [173679]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC uses a number of secure electronic networks to transfer data, as one of several methods of data transfer.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published yesterday and is available in the Library of the House.

I also refer the hon. Member to the remarks I made on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 344 setting out the key steps all staff in HMRC must now follow for bulk data transfers.

### Revenue and Customs: Personal Records

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which information the National Audit Office (NAO) is entitled to request from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on (i) personal tax and (ii) benefit data; by what mechanisms such information is provided to the NAO by HMRC; and if he will make a statement [169530]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Audit Office (NAO) derive their authority from four main Acts of Parliament; these are the Exchequer and Audit Department Acts 1866 and 1921, the National Audit Act 1983 and the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. Under section 8 of the National Audit Act 1983 the Comptroller and Auditor General has a right of access at all reasonable times to all official documents reasonably required for the purposes of an audit. The mechanisms by which such information is provided to the NAO vary according to the request.

On 13 November HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) initiated immediate increased security with a new process:

transfers will now only take place if they are absolutely necessary

written authorisation for the transfer has to be given by senior HMRC manager; and a clear instruction has been given regarding the appropriate standard of protection for the transfer.

Where directors decide that a data transfer by disc is unavoidable such media must, in every case, be securely encrypted at the appropriate level.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published yesterday and is available in the Library of the House.

### Revenue and Customs: Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list each Lean target for staff at HM Revenue and Custom's office in Washington since December 2005. [173745]

**Jane Kennedy:** Teams working in HMRC work streams have a range of targets which change regularly. Teams using Lean ways of working typically improve quality and lead times ensuring that customers receive the right amount of child benefit more quickly.

### Social Security Benefits: EC Nationals

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether birth or adoption certificates are required as proof of entitlement before the payment of family benefits for the children of European Economic Area nationals resident abroad. [174674]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 48W, to the right hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory).

### Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether previous versions of HM Revenue and Customs Code of Practice (COP) 26 allowed the suspension of the recovery of tax credit overpayments for the whole of the appeal process, including reference to the Adjudicator or Ombudsman; and if he will place in the Library the current edition of COP 26; [173584]

(2) in what circumstances the recovery of tax credit overpayments is suspended while the Adjudicator or Ombudsman considers an appeal. [173585]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have been suspending recovery of all tax credit overpayments following receipt of any new dispute, or where new evidence has been provided in support of a dispute, since November 2005.

HMRC will not ask a customer to pay back a tax credit overpayment until they have fully investigated a referral from the offices of the adjudicator or parliamentary ombudsman involving a new dispute or where fresh evidence has been provided.

A new COP 26 will be available and implemented in full from January 2008. Copies will be placed in the Library.

### Taxation: Gyms

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the ways in which employer-provided gym and sports club memberships are treated for tax purposes. [174813]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government keep all taxes under review as part of the Budget process.

### Taxation: Overpayments

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals used appeals procedure ESC A19 in each year since 1997. [175068]

**Jane Kennedy:** The standard procedure in relation to ESC A19 is that its application will be considered automatically whenever HMRC notifies a customer of a tax charge more than 12 months after the end of the tax year concerned and circumstances covered by the terms of this concession are apparent. There is no central record of the number of cases in which the application of ESC A19 was considered but details of tax given up under this concession are published in the Board of HMRC Annual Report, available in the House of Commons Library.

### Trade Competitiveness

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures in his Pre-Budget Report contribute to the international competitiveness of the UK's nations and regions. [174231]

**Angela Eagle:** The UK continues to perform well on a wide variety of measures of competitiveness—including GDP, productivity growth, labour market performance and economic stability. The Government remain committed to further achieving continued long-term improvements in UK competitiveness through raising long-term productivity. The recent comprehensive spending review (CSR) and pre-Budget report (PBR) illustrate this with policies aimed at improving performance through the key drivers of productivity. This includes increased investment in higher education and skills, continued development of a world-class science base and simplifications to the tax system. These actions are further underpinned by the Government's commitment to maintaining macroeconomic stability, which provides firms and individuals with the certainty needed to invest for our future.

The Government's strategy focuses on raising productivity and innovation across the whole UK economy. Further details on the national and regional implications of the CSR and PBR measures can be found in the regional and country leaflets accompanying the CSR and PBR available through:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/
pbr_csr07_regionalleaflets.cfm

### Unemployment: Yorkshire and Humber

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of young people in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber were unemployed in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [174297]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of young people in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber were unemployed in each year since 1997. (174297)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows estimates for each Parliamentary Constituency in Yorkshire & the Humber, for the 12 month periods ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months from March 2005 to March 2007 from the APS. Table 1 shows the number of unemployed aged 16-24 resident in each constituency.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2, attached, shows the annual averages for people aged 18 to 24 claiming JSA in each constituency in Yorkshire & the Humber for 1997 to 2006. Proportions for the 18 to 24 age group are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

*Table 1: Number of unemployed persons aged 16-24: parliamentary constituencies: Yorkshire and the Humber*

| | March 1997 to February 1998 | | March 1998 to February 1999 | | March 1999 to February 2000 | | March 2000 to February 2001 | | March 2001 to February 2002 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Level | Rate[1] (%) | Level | Rate[1] (%) | Level | Rate[1] (%) | Level | Rate[1] (%) | Level | Rate[1] (%) |
| Barnsley Central | 1 | 18 | 1 | 22 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 13 |
| Barnsley East and Mexborough | 1 | 9 | 3 | 29 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 14 | 1 | 18 |
| Barnsley West and Penistone | 1 | 15 | 1 | 13 | — | — | 1 | 20 | 1 | 17 |
| Batley and Spen | 1 | 12 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 11 |
| Beverley and Holderness | * | * | 1 | 21 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 10 | n/a | n/a |
| Bradford North | 2 | 20 | 1 | 37 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 22 | 1 | 22 |
| Bradford South | * | * | n/a | n/a | 1 | 11 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 12 |
| Bradford West | 2 | 25 | 3 | 37 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 25 | 2 | 32 |
| Brigg and Goole | 2 | 21 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 23 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 12 |
| Calder Valley | 1 | 16 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 14 | n/a | n/a |
| City of York | * | * | 1 | 13 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| Cleethorpes | 1 | 9 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 14 |
| Colne Valley | 1 | 8 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 11 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Dewsbury | 1 | 16 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 13 |
| Doncaster Central | 2 | 23 | 1 | 16 | 2 | 19 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 11 |
| Doncaster North | * | * | 1 | 18 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 23 | 1 | 17 |
| Don Valley | 1 | 27 | 1 | 18 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 23 | n/a | n/a |
| East Yorkshire | * | * | 1 | 13 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 14 | 1 | 12 |
| Elmet | 1 | 7 | 1 | 12 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | — | — |
| Great Grimsby | 1 | 27 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 23 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 18 |
| Halifax | 1 | 20 | 2 | 23 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 12 | 1 | 14 |
| Haltemprice and Howden | * | * | n/a | n/a | 1 | 11 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 11 |
| Harrogate and Knaresborough | 1 | 11 | — | — | 1 | 14 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Hemsworth | 1 | 19 | 1 | 10 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 15 | 1 | 13 |
| Huddersfield | 1 | 14 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 26 | 2 | 24 | 1 | 10 |
| Keighley | * | * | 1 | 13 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 10 |
| Kingston upon Hull East | 2 | 30 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 34 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 20 |
| Kingston upon Hull North | 2 | 28 | 2 | 26 | 2 | 32 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 19 |
| Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle | * | * | 1 | 14 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 10 |
| Leeds Central | 1 | 15 | 2 | 30 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 29 | 2 | 22 |
| Leeds East | 1 | 24 | 1 | 30 | 2 | 23 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 14 |
| Leeds North East | * | * | n/a | 0 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 21 | — | — |
| Leeds North West | 2 | 19 | 2 | 13 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 8 |
| Leeds West | 1 | 25 | n/a | n/a | 2 | 21 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Morley and Rothwell | * | * | n/a | n/a | — | — | 1 | 14 | n/a | n/a |
| Normanton | 1 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 13 | n/a | n/a | — | — |
| Pontefract and Castleford | 2 | 19 | n/a | n/a | 2 | 27 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 17 |

*Table 1: Number of unemployed persons aged 16-24; parliamentary constituencies; Yorkshire and the Humber*

| | *March 1997 to February 1998* | | *March 1998 to February 1999* | | *March 1999 to February 2000* | | *March 2000 to February 2001* | | *March 2001 to February 2002* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* |
| Pudsey | 1 | 8 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 14 | n/a | n/a |
| Richmond (Yorks) | * | * | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | — | — | — | — |
| Rother Valley | 1 | 11 | 2 | 45 | 2 | 32 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 13 |
| Rotherham | 1 | 20 | 1 | 19 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 13 | 1 | 14 |
| Ryedale | — | — | n/a | n/a | — | — | n/a | n/a | * | * |
| Scarborough and Whitby | * | * | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 19 |
| Scunthorpe | 1 | 11 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 10 |
| Selby | * | * | n/a | n/a | 1 | 15 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sheffield Attercliffe | — | — | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sheffield Brightside | 1 | 27 | 1 | 26 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 11 | n/a | n/a |
| Sheffield Central | 3 | 37 | 3 | 26 | 1 | 19 | n/a | n/a | 2 | 20 |
| Sheffield-Hallam | 1 | 20 | 1 | 13 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sheffield Heeley | 1 | 16 | 1 | 22 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sheffield Hillsborough | * | * | 2 | 19 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 11 |
| Shipley | 1 | 14 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 35 |
| Skipton and Ripon | 1 | 11 | 1 | 9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Vale of York | — | — | 1 | 7 | — | — | 2 | 22 | n/a | n/a |
| Wakefield | 1 | 12 | 1 | 9 | n/a | n/a | 2 | 17 | 1 | 12 |
| Wentworth | 1 | 23 | 2 | 24 | 1 | 25 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 8 |

| | *March 2002 to February 2003* | | *March 2003 to February 2004* | | *April 2004 to March 2005* | | *April 2005 to March 2006* | | *April 2006 to March 2007* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* | *Level* | *Rate[1] (%)* |
| Barnsley Central | 1 | 27 | # | # | 1 | 13 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 9 |
| Barnsley East and Mexborough | 1 | 20 | 1 | 21 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 21 | 1 | 20 |
| Barnsley West and Penistone | 1 | 9 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 11 |
| Batley and Spen | 1 | 15 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 9 | * | * | 1 | 8 |
| Beverley and Holderness | 1 | 12 | 1 | 8 | * | * | 1 | 10 | 2 | 18 |
| Bradford North | 1 | 15 | 1 | 14 | * | * | 2 | 21 | 2 | 19 |
| Bradford South | 1 | 13 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 18 | 2 | 19 | 2 | 27 |
| Bradford West | 2 | 17 | 2 | 17 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 19 |
| Brigg and Goole | 1 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 16 |
| Calder Valley | * | * | 1 | 13 | * | * | 1 | 27 | 1 | 19 |
| City of York | 1 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 30 |
| Cleethorpes | 1 | 12 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 10 | # | # |
| Colne Valley | 1 | 10 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 11 |
| Dewsbury | 1 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 14 | * | * |
| Doncaster Central | 2 | 29 | # | # | * | * | * | * | 1 | 20 |
| Doncaster North | 1 | 19 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 27 | 1 | 13 |
| Don Valley | * | * | 1 | 10 | 1 | 18 | * | * | 1 | 15 |
| East Yorkshire | 1 | 11 | # | # | 2 | 23 | 1 | 22 | * | * |
| Elmet | 1 | 10 | 1 | 20 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Great Grimsby | 2 | 23 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 22 | 2 | 23 | 1 | 18 |
| Halifax | 1 | 12 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 19 |
| Haltemprice and Howden | * | * | # | # | * | * | 1 | 11 | * | * |
| Harrogate and Knaresborough | * | * | 1 | 13 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Hemsworth | 1 | 13 | 2 | 14 | * | * | 1 | 7 | 2 | 22 |
| Huddersfield | 2 | 31 | 1 | 21 | 2 | 23 | 2 | 27 | 2 | 21 |
| Keighley | 1 | 15 | # | # | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Kingston upon Hull East | 2 | 23 | 2 | 18 | 2 | 18 | 2 | 19 | 1 | 16 |

| | March 2002 to February 2003 | | March 2003 to February 2004 | | April 2004 to March 2005 | | April 2005 to March 2006 | | April 2006 to March 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Level | Rate[1] (%) | Level | Rate[1] (%) | Level | Rate[1] (%) | Level | Rate[1] (%) | Level | Rate[1] (%) |
| Kingston upon Hull North | 1 | 17 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 15 |
| Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle | 1 | 13 | 2 | 26 | 2 | 28 | 1 | 16 | 2 | 22 |
| Leeds Central | 1 | 18 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 25 | 3 | 23 | 3 | 24 |
| Leeds East | * | * | # | # | * | * | 2 | 31 | 1 | 11 |
| Leeds North East | * | * | 1 | 9 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 23 | 1 | 14 |
| Leeds North West | 1 | 14 | 1 | 9 | * | * | 1 | 10 | * | * |
| Leeds West | 1 | 10 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 16 | * | * |
| Morley and Rothwell | * | * | 1 | 8 | 1 | 19 | * | * | 1 | 12 |
| Normanton | 1 | 10 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 19 | 1 | 17 |
| Pontefract and Castleford | * | * | 1 | 13 | 1 | 18 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 16 |
| Pudsey | * | * | 1 | 11 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Richmond (Yorks) | * | * | # | # | 1 | 11 | * | * | * | * |
| Rother Valley | 1 | 16 | 1 | 9 | # | # | # | # | 1 | 17 |
| Rotherham | 1 | 16 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 24 |
| Ryedale | * | * | # | # | # | # | * | * | # | # |
| Scarborough and Whitby | 1 | 15 | 1 | 9 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Scunthorpe | 1 | 18 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 15 |
| Selby | 1 | 7 | # | # | 1 | 7 | * | * | 1 | 18 |
| Sheffield Attercliffe | 1 | 12 | 1 | 16 | * | * | 1 | 22 | 2 | 21 |
| Sheffield Brightside | 1 | 15 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 26 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 18 |
| Sheffield Central | 2 | 19 | 3 | 24 | 4 | 31 | 3 | 30 | 2 | 12 |
| Sheffield Hallam | * | * | # | # | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Sheffield Heeley | * | * | 2 | 26 | 2 | 25 | * | * | 1 | 27 |
| Sheffield Hillsborough | * | * | 2 | 16 | * | * | 2 | 37 | 1 | 16 |
| Shipley | 1 | 12 | 1 | 8 | * | * | 1 | 20 | * | * |
| Skipton and Ripon | * | * | 1 | 18 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Vale of York | * | * | 1 | 15 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Wakefield | * | * | 2 | 22 | 1 | 10 | * | * | * | * |
| Wentworth | 1 | 9 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 18 |

[1] Unemployed people as a percentage of the economically active population for age group.
n/a = Figures not available since the group sample size is disclosive.
* = The weighted figure is unreliable as the sample size is too small.
— = Figures not available as the group sample size is zero.
*Note:*
Estimates are subject to random variability. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
*Source:*
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

*Table 2: Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance aged 18 to 24, resident in the Yorkshire & Humber constituencies.*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barnsley Central | 805 | 740 | 605 | 570 | 500 | 430 | 410 | 380 | 440 | 500 |
| Barnsley East & Mexborough | 825 | 740 | 620 | 575 | 550 | 470 | 455 | 395 | 450 | 560 |
| Barnsley West & Penistone | 630 | 555 | 490 | 445 | 410 | 365 | 360 | 275 | 295 | 345 |
| Batley & Spen | 625 | 510 | 455 | 390 | 340 | 325 | 340 | 275 | 335 | 450 |
| Beverley & Holderness | 515 | 510 | 440 | 400 | 345 | 310 | 290 | 255 | 290 | 335 |
| Bradford North | 1,165 | 1,020 | 880 | 855 | 835 | 845 | 795 | 675 | 690 | 785 |
| Bradford South | 760 | 705 | 630 | 575 | 560 | 570 | 580 | 470 | 490 | 595 |
| Bradford West | 1,530 | 1,410 | 1,210 | 1,190 | 1,140 | 1,115 | 1,070 | 910 | 960 | 1,005 |
| Brigg & Goole | 520 | 455 | 390 | 340 | 310 | 315 | 285 | 270 | 305 | 325 |
| Calder Valley | 495 | 450 | 410 | 350 | 320 | 310 | 280 | 240 | 275 | 365 |
| City of York | 770 | 600 | 490 | 450 | 415 | 380 | 365 | 350 | 350 | 465 |
| Cleethorpes | 775 | 690 | 595 | 535 | 495 | 425 | 400 | 360 | 415 | 445 |
| Colne Valley | 525 | 475 | 420 | 385 | 325 | 340 | 310 | 270 | 295 | 365 |
| Dewsbury | 595 | 515 | 485 | 425 | 380 | 365 | 345 | 305 | 345 | 445 |

*Table 2: Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance aged 18 to 24, resident in the Yorkshire & Humber constituencies.*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Don Valley | 750 | 590 | 510 | 460 | 430 | 360 | 350 | 325 | 395 | 430 |
| Doncaster Central | 1,115 | 900 | 725 | 645 | 615 | 545 | 565 | 545 | 650 | 700 |
| Doncaster North | 870 | 760 | 595 | 570 | 530 | 465 | 440 | 440 | 565 | 630 |
| East Yorkshire | 545 | 470 | 415 | 390 | 415 | 360 | 310 | 315 | 320 | 365 |
| Elmet | 375 | 320 | 275 | 240 | 195 | 180 | 190 | 170 | 180 | 230 |
| Great Grimsby | 1,095 | 1,050 | 880 | 865 | 790 | 735 | 670 | 640 | 750 | 815 |
| Halifax | 885 | 760 | 650 | 605 | 550 | 570 | 540 | 455 | 500 | 620 |
| Haltemprice & Howden | 325 | 305 | 245 | 205 | 190 | 180 | 165 | 160 | 170 | 185 |
| Harrogate & Knaresborough | 295 | 215 | 185 | 150 | 135 | 120 | 130 | 130 | 125 | 155 |
| Hemsworth | 685 | 625 | 560 | 505 | 430 | 380 | 380 | 335 | 415 | 505 |
| Huddersfield | 1,000 | 880 | 740 | 620 | 595 | 575 | 560 | 485 | 510 | 595 |
| Keighley | 570 | 540 | 505 | 450 | 420 | 405 | 345 | 315 | 335 | 355 |
| Kingston upon Hull East | 1,095 | 1,095 | 915 | 850 | 790 | 725 | 720 | 690 | 800 | 885 |
| Kingston upon Hull North | 1,495 | 1,340 | 1,115 | 975 | 840 | 840 | 895 | 835 | 920 | 1,025 |
| Kingston upon Hull West & Hessie | 1,140 | 1,075 | 880 | 795 | 750 | 730 | 785 | 725 | 795 | 830 |
| Leeds Central | 1,320 | 1,185 | 1,035 | 980 | 930 | 955 | 965 | 955 | 1,040 | 1,115 |
| Leeds East | 1,040 | 880 | 710 | 680 | 635 | 640 | 640 | 625 | 715 | 855 |
| Leeds North East | 635 | 540 | 470 | 390 | 365 | 360 | 380 | 345 | 360 | 400 |
| Leeds North West | 555 | 430 | 375 | 320 | 285 | 290 | 300 | 260 | 290 | 310 |
| Leeds West | 740 | 680 | 580 | 545 | 500 | 510 | 485 | 465 | 530 | 615 |
| Morley & Rothwell | 450 | 395 | 360 | 310 | 290 | 285 | 295 | 285 | 325 | 380 |
| Normanton | 435 | 380 | 300 | 265 | 240 | 220 | 200 | 160 | 220 | 270 |
| Pontefract & Castleford | 700 | 630 | 570 | 475 | 465 | 445 | 430 | 410 | 475 | 580 |
| Pudsey | 270 | 240 | 245 | 240 | 210 | 185 | 195 | 155 | 165 | 225 |
| Richmond | 365 | 305 | 255 | 225 | 190 | 190 | 195 | 170 | 165 | 195 |
| Rother Valley | 795 | 640 | 580 | 500 | 445 | 410 | 400 | 350 | 405 | 425 |
| Rotherham | 1,020 | 805 | 700 | 655 | 575 | 560 | 555 | 470 | 570 | 585 |
| Ryedale | 250 | 200 | 200 | 145 | 155 | 140 | 140 | 130 | 115 | 160 |
| Scarborough & Whitby | 680 | 610 | 520 | 475 | 455 | 410 | 375 | 390 | 365 | 420 |
| Scunthorpe | 685 | 645 | 520 | 480 | 505 | 485 | 465 | 405 | 465 | 545 |
| Selby | 455 | 395 | 300 | 250 | 215 | 200 | 205 | 195 | 200 | 270 |
| Sheffield, Attercliffe | 695 | 550 | 515 | 465 | 440 | 440 | 445 | 355 | 370 | 440 |
| Sheffield, Brightside | 1,080 | 855 | 810 | 750 | 675 | 655 | 660 | 580 | 615 | 720 |
| Sheffield, Central | 1,715 | 1,310 | 1,120 | 1,035 | 940 | 895 | 980 | 805 | 905 | 840 |
| Sheffield, Hallam | 465 | 320 | 270 | 225 | 190 | 175 | 190 | 135 | 110 | 165 |
| Sheffield, Heeley | 920 | 755 | 680 | 585 | 520 | 490 | 505 | 430 | 405 | 530 |
| Sheffield, Hillsborough | 670 | 500 | 450 | 410 | 340 | 325 | 310 | 255 | 270 | 340 |
| Shipley | 455 | 410 | 360 | 340 | 325 | 325 | 285 | 280 | 275 | 330 |
| Skipton & Ripon | 235 | 215 | 185 | 155 | 140 | 115 | 115 | 105 | 115 | 145 |
| Vale of York | 215 | 170 | 145 | 130 | 120 | 100 | 100 | 90 | 110 | 145 |
| Wakefield | 715 | 630 | 520 | 455 | 445 | 410 | 400 | 335 | 430 | 500 |
| Wentworth | 805 | 670 | 595 | 545 | 460 | 395 | 400 | 340 | 385 | 435 |
| Total | 41,145 | 35,635 | 30,680 | 27,850 | 25,655 | 24,340 | 23,950 | 21,490 | 23,610 | 27,255 |

*Notes:*

1. Claimant count data by age includes computerised claims only.
2. Results are rounded to nearest 5.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus administrative data.

## Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what HM Revenue and Customs' policy is on the recovery of overpaid tax credit in cases where a joint award was made but the couple has separated. [166319]

**Jane Kennedy:** In cases where a household has broken down, both customers remain jointly and severally liable in law for any outstanding overpayment.

However, the law also allows HM Revenue and Customs to exercise discretion over how much of any overpayment it seeks to recover. In cases where a couple have separated, HMRC will consider carefully how much it should seek to recover from each of the parties, while still recognising that it has the legal authority to collect back the full amount from either of the parties and a duty to protect the public finances.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was collected in repayment of tax credit overpayments by HM Revenue and Customs in each month since April 2003. [175156]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to the recovery of overpayments of 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 tax credit awards is contained in section 2, table 4, of the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report in the HM Revenue and Customs 2006-07 Accounts, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accounts2007.htm

# Ministerial Corrections

*Tuesday 18 December 2007*

## JUSTICE

### European Court of Human Rights

**John Robertson:** My hon. Friend will be aware of the ruling in the House of Lords at the end of October that the 12-month rule on applications under human rights law did not apply in Scotland. Thus, £70 million in compensation may be paid to prisoners. With the recent case of a prisoner who was denied IVF treatment getting a €5,000 award from the court through the convention, does my hon. Friend think that the convention is tipped the wrong way, and that it is time we started thinking of victims and put an end to this ludicrous state of affairs?

*[Official Report, 11 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 151.]*

*Letter of correction from Bridget Prentice:*

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Glasgow, North-West (John Robertson) on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 151. The correct answer should have been:

**Bridget Prentice:** My hon. Friend refers to the judgment in Somerville and others *v.* Scottish Ministers. As he says, it has an effect on time scales for bringing actions, but clarifies the legal structure of the Scotland Act 1998. Careful consideration is required across Government here in Westminster and by Scottish Ministers.

The Government are disappointed by the Grand Chamber's judgment—on the right to family life in Dickson *v.* the UK—and are studying it with great care.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Prostitution: Foreign Workers

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women what estimate she has made of the proportion of non-British sex workers who have been *(a)* trafficked and *(b)* subject to coercion. [165770]

*[Official Report, 19 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 537W.]*

*Letter of correction from Barbara Follett:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire (Jo Swinson) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 537W. The correct answer should have been:

**Barbara Follett:** Anecdotal evidence suggests that in London 10 years ago 85 per cent. of women in brothels were UK citizens, now 85 per cent. are from outside the UK. Estimates suggest that at any one time in 2003 there were approximately 4,000 victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK.

No research has been undertaken which would provide either evidence or provide a basis for estimates on the proportion of non-British sex workers who have been *(a)* trafficked and *(b)* subject to coercion.